



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

**FBIS-NES-89-015
Wednesday
25 January 1989**

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-015

CONTENTS

25 January 1989

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 January Middle East and South Asia Review	1
--	---

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Reportage on Maghreb Higher Committee Meeting	3
Begins in Tunis [Tunis Radio]	3
Speakers Cited at Meeting [Tunis Radio]	3
Meeting Ends, Statement Issued [Tunis Radio]	3

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Demands 'Immediate' Israeli Withdrawal [WAKH]	4
'Arafat Terms Rabin Plan 'Absolutely Worthless' [Baghdad Voice of the PLO]	4
Hurani Comments on Baker Statement on Dialogue [Kuwait AL-ANBA' 22 Jan]	4
Hurani on Prospects for Dialogue With U.S. [KUNA]	4
INA: PLO Calls for Security Council Session	5
PFLP's Habash on 'Arafat's 'Free Concessions' [Voice of the People]	5
PLO, PFLP Statements on Government Cited [Radio Monte Carlo]	5
Khalid al-Hassan on U.S.-PLO Dialogue [Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR 20 Jan]	6

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Ministry 'Corrects' Boussena's OPEC Remarks [APS]	10
APS, TASS Sign Cooperation Agreement [APS]	10

Egypt

Iranian 'Preconditions' on POW's Rejected [AL-WAFD 21 Jan]	10
'Abd al-Majid on Tabah, Prisoners in Iran [MENA]	10
'Abd al-Majid Comments on Tabah Talks [MENA]	11
Report on Tabah Talks Says No Progress Made [MENA]	11
Al-Baz on Conference, Ties With Syria, Libya [MENA]	11
King Husayn To Visit Cairo 25 Jan [MENA]	11
Investigation of Lawyer's Group Incident Launched [MENA]	11
Mubarak Speaks on Domestic, Foreign Issues [MENA]	12
AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM Interview [Kuwait 21 Jan]	14
Security Forces, Al-Minya Islamic Groups Clash [AL-WAFD 19 Jan]	20
Defendant Mahmud Nur al-Din Interviewed [Kuwait AL-ANBA' 18 Jan]	20
Zambian Boeing Loses Tire at Cairo Airport [MENA]	23

Sudan

Libyan Envoy Predicts Improved U.S. Relations [SUNA]	23
Prime Minister Asks To Extend Mandate [Omdurman Radio]	23
Al-Mahdi Sets Up Tripartite Peace Committee [SUNA]	23
SPLA Denies Attacking Lologo Refugee Camp [Radio SPLA]	24
SUNA Officials Removed After Union Demands	24

Tunisia

Reportage on Visit by Egypt's Butrus Ghali	24
Received by President [Tunis Radio]	24
Signs Minutes on Visit [Tunis Radio]	24
Makes Statement, Departs [Tunis Radio]	25

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

New Labor Law Becomes Effective 22 Mar [ARAB TIMES 23 Jan]	26
--	----

Oman

'Arafat Interviewed on Palestinian 'Uprising' [Salalah Radio]	26
---	----

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Welcomes Jordan's King Husayn 24 Jan [SPA]	26
Holds Meeting With Husayn [SPA]	26
AL-YAWM Views New U.S. Administration [20 Jan]	26

United Arab Emirates

AL-BAYAN on Bush's 'Golden Opportunity' [21 Jan]	27
--	----

Yemen Arab Republic

Deputy Prime Minister Makki Leaves for Egypt [Sanaa Radio]	27
--	----

IRAQ

Egyptian Industry, Energy Ministers Arrive 20 Jan [INA]	28
Industry Ministers Meet [INA]	28
Ministers Depart 23 Jan [INA]	28
YAR Prime Minister Arrives With Delegation [INA]	28
Signs Joint Committee Minutes [INA]	28
Makes Statement, Departs [INA]	29
YAR Deputy Premier Departs [INA]	29

ISRAEL

Shi'mon Peres Discusses Negotiations With PLO [Hamburg DER SPIEGEL 23 Jan]	30
Rabin Discusses Settlers' Motives, IDF Tasks [Jerusalem Radio]	32
On Orders on Opening Fire [Jerusalem Radio]	32
Approves Plan for IDF Cuts [MA'ARIV 25 Jan]	33
Rabin Tells Knesset Deportation Orders Decreased [Tel Aviv Radio]	33
Knesset Approves Composition of Committees [THE JERUSALEM POST 24 Jan]	33
IDF 'Top Echelon' 'Pessimistic' on Territories [AL HAMISHMAR 24 Jan]	34
IDF Appoints New Civil Defense Commander [Jerusalem Radio]	34
Entry Permits Viewed for Territories Residents [YEDI'OT AHARONOT 24 Jan]	34
Shamir: Arabs Not Budged From 'True Intention' [Jerusalem Radio]	34
Herzog Participation in Hirohito Rites Approved [Jerusalem Radio]	34
USSR To Participate in Jerusalem Book Fair [YEDI'OT AHARONOT 24 Jan]	35
Scitex Signs \$1.1 Million Deal With Soviet Firm [YEDI'OT AHARONOT 20 Jan]	35
Jewish Library Opens in Cairo 24 Jan [Jerusalem Radio]	35
Chambers of Commerce To Open in Sofia, Tel Aviv [Tel Aviv Radio]	35
First Group of Indian Reporters Makes Visit	35
'Rapprochement' Seen in Visit [Jerusalem Radio]	35
Arens on Need for Better Ties [Jerusalem Radio]	35

Shamir Urges Improving Ties [Tel Aviv Radio]	35
India To Open Visa Office [Jerusalem Radio]	36
Beirut, Lahd Cooperate on Combating Drugs [Jerusalem Radio]	36
2 SLA Soldiers Killed, 3 Hurt in Security Zone [Jerusalem Radio]	36
SLA Holds Villagers, Shoves UNIFIL Soldiers [Jerusalem Radio]	36
SLA's Lahd Discharged From Hospital [Jerusalem Radio]	36
Golan Druze Forced To Cancel Trip to Syria [Jerusalem Radio]	36
Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories	36
More on 24 Jan Incidents [THE JERUSALEM POST 24 Jan]	36
16 Detained in East Jerusalem [Jerusalem Radio]	37
8 Hurt in Gaza Strip Riots [Tel Aviv Radio]	37
Reservist Sentenced to Prison [Jerusalem Radio]	37
Kindergartens Closed [Jerusalem TV]	37
Firebomb in West Bank [Jerusalem Radio]	38
Gaza Camps' Curfews Lifted [Jerusalem Radio]	38
Baker Testimony Viewed as 'Uplifting Message' [HA'ARETZ 19 Jan]	38
Bush Government Urged To Adopt Balanced Policy [AL-QUDS 19 Jan]	38
U.S. 'Demand' for 'Arafat Explanation Questioned [AL-FAJR 21 Jan]	39
Likud Minister Seen Moderating Positions [HA'ARETZ 20 Nov]	39
HA'ARETZ: 'No Respect' for Rabin in Knesset [19 Jan]	40
Rabin Plan Criticized as 'Odd Repetition' [AL-FAJR 22 Jan]	41
Rabin's Plan 'Odd, Confused' [AL-NAHAR 21 Jan]	42

JORDAN

King, Delegation Leave for Saudi Arabia 24 Jan [Amman Radio]	43
Talks To Focus on Summit [Radio Monte Carlo]	43
U.S. Ambassador Stresses 'Direct Negotiations' [SAWT AL-SHA'B 25 Jan]	43
King Husayn Orders Compensation for Crop Damage [JORDAN TIMES 24 Jan]	43
Cultural Exchange Agreement Signed with PRC [Amman TV]	44
AL-DUSTUR Hopes for 'Fair' Bush Policy [20 Jan]	44
'Endless' U.S. Conditions for PLO Viewed [SAWT AL-SHA'B 24 Jan]	44
SAWT AL-SHA'B Calls Rabin Ideas "Nothing New" [21 Jan]	45

LEBANON

Amal, Hizballah Agree To Stop Fighting [IRNA]	46
More on Cease-Fire [RFL]	46
Hizballah Accuses Amal of Violating Cease-Fire [VOL]	46
Amal Official Berates Iran, Hizballah on Hostages [VOL]	46
Libyan Envoy on Red Cross, Troop Presence [VOL]	46
Al-Huss on Arab Committee Meeting in Tunis [VOM]	47
Al-Huss Interviewed on Ending Political Crisis [London AL-HAWADITH 20 Jan]	47
Al-Huss Cables George Bush on Mideast Peace [Beirut Radio]	48
Al-Huss Opposes New Recruitment for Army [VOL]	48
Army Position in Rum Establishes Communication [VOL]	48
South Lebanese Army Expels 37 From Security Zone [VOL]	48
Lahd Militia Open Fire on UNIFIL Spokesman [Beirut Radio]	48
'Tripoli Martyrs' Claim Kidnapping of 3 Syrians [RFL]	48
More on Kidnapping [RFL]	49
'9 February' Group Claims Attack Against Syrians	49
Irish Soldier Wounded During Israeli Shelling [Beirut Radio]	49
PFLP Claims Attack Against Israeli Patrol [AFP]	49
More on Attack [Voice of National Resistance]	49
Israeli Helicopters Overfly South 25 Jan [RFL]	49
Planes Break Sound Barrier [VOL]	49
Israeli Forces Conduct 'Large-Scale' Maneuvers [Beirut Radio]	50
Israel Hands New Weapons Over to Lahd Militias [Beirut Radio]	50

SYRIA

Talas Cited on Mosad Involvement in Pan Am Crash [WAKH]	51
Further on Meetings on Amal-Hizballah Dispute	51
Al-Asad, Velayati, Al-Shar' Meet [Damascus Radio]	51
Musawi Expects 'Good News' [Radio Monte Carlo]	51
'Initial Agreement' Reached [Damascus Radio]	51
Velayati Departs 25 Jan [Damascus Radio]	52
Somali Socialist Party Official Arrives 21 Jan [Damascus TV]	52
Delivers Message to Al-Asad [Damascus Radio]	52
Departs 25 Jan [Damascus Radio]	52

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Armed Forces Kill 377 Rebels on Salang Highway [Kabul Radio]	53
Mojadeddi Cited on Mujahidin Split, Soviet Talks [BAKHTAR]	53
Views Soviet Withdrawal, Shura [Jeddah UKAZ 14 Jan]	54
Peshawar Coalition Prepared To Talk to USSR [Tehran Radio]	54
Soviet Planes Airlifting Food Into Kabul [Kabul Radio]	55
Najibullah Sends Condolences to Gorbachev [BAKHTAR]	55
Najibullah Meets With Bangladesh's Abdul Razaq [BAKHTAR]	55
Kabul Mayor Interviewed on Military Situation [Bratislava PRAVDA 16 Jan]	55
Status of Soviet Troop Withdrawal Viewed [London TV]	56
Armed Forces' Combat Operations Detailed	57
19 Jan Clashes, Casualties [Kabul Radio]	57
Clashes, Casualties 22 Jan [Kabul Radio]	58
Fighting, Casualties 23 Jan [Kabul Radio]	58
Pakistani Violations of Accords Reported to UN	59
190th, 191st Protest Notes [Kabul Radio]	59
Protest Notice No 192 [BAKHTAR]	59
Protest Notice No 193 [BAKHTAR]	59
Daily Expects Bush To Observe Geneva Accords [BAKHTAR]	59
Pol-e Khomri, Omak Sign Cooperation Protocol [BAKHTAR]	60
Ex-King Zahir Shah Interviewed on Future Role [Vienna DER STANDARD 23 Jan]	60

India

President's Rule in Tamil Nadu, Mizoram Revoked [Delhi Radio]	61
President Accepts Resignation of Bihar Governor [Delhi Radio]	61
2 Bihar Ministers Quit [Delhi Radio]	61
Sikh Militants Kill 7, Wound Hindu Politician [AFP]	61
President Views Economy in Republic Day Message [ISI]	61
Gandhi Discusses Relations With Vietnam [Hanoi VNA]	64
Bush Tasks, Relations With India Examined [Delhi International]	65

Iran

124 Disabled POW's Return Home From Iraq [IRNA]	66
Amnesty Marks Islamic Revolution Anniversary [IRNA]	66
Velayati To Mediate Amal-Hizballah Dispute	66
Leaves for Damascus [IRNA]	66
To Revisit Damascus 26 Jan [Tehran Radio]	66
Lavasani Meets With UN Special Envoy Eliasson [Tehran Radio]	67
Tehran Radio on Mission	67
Velayati Holds Talks With Pakistan's Shahi [IRNA]	67
Mujahidin Brief Velayati on Enemy 'Propaganda' [IRNA]	68
Bush To Inherit Reagan's 'Warmongering' Policies [Tehran Radio]	68
Larijani Receives Austrian Ambassador, Message [IRNA]	68
Montazeri Urges Free Political Expression [IRNA]	68

Mohtashemi, Montazeri Discuss Forming Parties [Tehran Radio]	69
Montazeri Receives Basij Forces Chief [IRNA]	69
Defense Ministry's Mahallati on New 'Projects' [IRNA]	69
Anti-Drug Campaign, Activities Detailed [IRNA]	69
Basij Forces 'Ready' [IRNA]	70
Violators To Be Shot [IRNA]	70
Drug Traffickers Killed; Goods Confiscated [IRNA]	70
Mobarakeh Drug Rings 'Smashed' [Tehran Radio]	71
Heroin, Opium Seized [Tehran Radio]	71
Drugs Seized in Khorasan [Tehran Radio]	71
10 Arrested; Drugs Seized [Tehran Radio]	71

Pakistan

Baluchistan Ends Fight To Dissolve Assembly [AFP]	71
Bhutto on Punjab, Baluchistan, Other Issues [Islamabad Radio]	72
Spokesman Denies Violation of Geneva Accord [Islamabad Radio]	72
3 Killed, 20 Injured in Sind Province Riots [AFP]	73
Talks Under Way To Acquire French Power Plant [AFP]	73
Bhutto Sends Greetings to U.S. President Bush [Islamabad Radio]	73
Reportage on Visit by Iran's 'Ali Shamkani	73
Meets With President [Islamabad Radio]	73
More on Talks With President [IRNA]	74
Talks With Bhutto [Islamabad Radio]	74
More on Talks With Bhutto [Tehran Radio]	74
Cooperation Discussed [AFP]	75
Meets Foreign Minister [IRNA]	75
Yaqub Khan on Reported Troop Movement by India [Islamabad International]	75
Yaqub Khan on Desire To Settle Issues With India [Islamabad Radio]	75

25 January Middle East and South Asia Review

LD2501140589 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

Amal-Hizballah Cease-Fire—The talks in Damascus under Syrian and Iranian auspices concluded 25 January with an agreement to end the fratricidal fighting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah, Damascus radio announced.

The initial agreement provides for an immediate and comprehensive cease-fire and an end to media campaigns between the two sides. This will be followed by efforts to reach a comprehensive reconciliation agreement to regulate relations between Amal and Hizballah.

IRNA noted that Amal and Hizballah leaders signed the agreement after 62 hours of talks during which they never met face to face. The agency linked the accord with the "ceaseless mediation efforts" of Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Hizballah representative Husayn al-Musawi told journalists that the agreement came after a "breakthrough" was achieved during talks between Velayati and Syrian President Hafez al-Assad, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

Attack on SLA—Two South Lebanese Army (SLA) soldiers were killed and three wounded by a landmine explosion near the southern village of Al-Qantarah 24 January, Jerusalem radio reported. The Amal Movement claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement carried by Voice of National Resistance radio.

The SLA subsequently expelled 37 suspected supporters of hostile groups from the Israeli "security zone," the Voice of Lebanon noted.

Tripoli Killings—A group opposed to the Syrian presence announced that it has executed three Syrian soldiers who were kidnapped in Tripoli 21 January, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. A spokesman for the "Tripoli Martyrs Battalion" said the executions were in reprisal for the Syrian refusal to release an Islamic Unification Movement official.

PLO Affairs

Responding to President Bush's call for the establishment of a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation, a PLO official cited by Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio stressed that the Palestinian people alone have the right to decide the form of the future relationship between a Palestinian state and the "Arab brothers."

The radio also reported that the Palestinian delegation at the United Nations has rejected a U.S. proposal calling for an end to the "uprising."

In a lengthy interview with Beirut's AL-SAFIR, PFLP leader George Habash criticized PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's policies of "gratuitous concessions," contending that 'Arafat's current policies are a "flagrant violation" of PNC resolutions.

He viewed the possible establishment of a Palestinian state on "part of the Palestinian territories" as a gain on which to base "continued struggle," stressing that the Palestinians cannot coexist with "the Zionist entity." Since the Palestinians "cannot destroy this entity with a finishing blow," Habash said, "responsible leaders must think of tactical battles" that can eventually lead to their "strategic goal."

Israel

The Arabs have not budged from their true intention, which is "to throw the Jews into the sea," Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir declared in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio. All their proposals are nothing but a disguise concealing this desire, he maintained.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee that the IDF is considering prohibiting rioters from working in Israel, IDF radio noted. Eight inhabitants of a Gaza Strip refugee camp were injured in further rioting, the radio disclosed.

Egypt

Internal Affairs—Twelve people were arrested following the 23 January incident at the Lawyers Association headquarters, MENA reported. The Prosecutor's Office has begun an investigation of the wounding of a passerby, arson, and other charges, the agency added.

MENA also noted that the association's council is to hold elections to the post of chairman and to the membership of the council.

One man was killed and many others injured in riots in Al-Minya 19 January, AL-WAFD reported. Members of Islamic groups were protesting the interior minister's decision to close a local mosque.

Foreign Affairs—Egypt will not accept a partnership arrangement in Tabah's Sonesta Hotel but will compensate Israel for the hotel after an assessment has been made, Foreign Minister 'Isamat 'Abd al-Majid stated according to MENA.

Regarding Egyptian POW's in Iran, Al-Majid said the estimated number is between 10,000 and 15,000, MENA noted. AL-WAFD reported 21 January that Egypt has "rejected" Iran's preconditions for the return of the prisoners and has appealed to the International Red Cross to facilitate their return.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Husayn Visit—King Husayn of Jordan and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia met in Dhahran for talks, SPA reported. A "well-informed source" cited by Radio Monte Carlo disclosed that they discussed the possibility of holding an Arab summit meeting.

Maghreb Affairs—The Maghreb Higher Committee met in Tunis 24 January to discuss proposals on economic, social, and security matters and a draft "foundation treaty" on the structure of the greater Maghreb, according to Tunis radio.

A press statement issued after the talks noted that the delegates' "observations" will be passed to the forthcoming summit meeting, the radio added.

Afghanistan

The Afghan High Command appealed to the mujahidin group led by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud to end its attacks on vehicles using the Salang highway, Kabul radio reported.

Although the Afghan Government had earlier agreed to let Mas'ud maintain security on the highway, 89 vehicles have been set on fire and 517 other vehicles have been seized since March 1988, the statement pointed out.

The Afghan Army responded to these attacks by killing 377 "extremists" in a 24 January operation along the highway.

Another 280 "extremists" were killed in Kabul, Nangarhar, and other provinces in recent fighting, according to Kabul radio.

The mujahidin alliance based in Pakistan is willing to hold talks with the USSR, according to a press interview with alliance spokesman Sebghatullah Mojadeddi cited by Tehran radio. Mojadeddi also disclosed that Gulbud-din Hikmatyar, leader of the Afghan Islamic Party, will lead a delegation to Tehran for talks with the Iran-based mujahidin.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Reportage on Maghreb Higher Committee Meeting

Begin in Tunisia

LD240113589 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] The third meeting of the Maghreb Higher Committee began this morning in Tunis under the chairmanship of the Tunisian prime minister, Mr Hedi Baccouche, and with the participation of delegations from the five Maghreb countries.

The five states are represented by delegations headed by Mr Hedi Baccouche, Tunisian prime minister; Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi from the Libyan Jamahiriyyah; Col Mohamed Sidina Sidya, Mauritanian foreign minister; Boualem Bessaïeh, Algerian foreign minister; and Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of cooperation and foreign affairs.

Speakers Cited at Meeting

LD2401135089 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The Maghreb Higher Committee opened its 3d session at 1030 today [0930 GMT] under the chairmanship of Mr Hedi Baccouche, the prime minister and with the participation of the five delegations of the Maghreb countries. [passage omitted]

In the opening of this higher committee, whose chairmanship was entrusted to Tunisia, the chairmen of the participating delegations addressed the session.

Mr Hedi Baccouche started by stressing that this Maghreb meeting responds to the aspirations of our peoples who consider Maghreb unity as a supreme aim that meets the demands of history, geography, and civilization. [passage omitted]

Then the chairman of the Mauritanian delegation, Mr Mohamed Sidina Ould Sidya, expressed his happiness and satisfaction with the continuation of the consultations in implementing the resolutions of the leaders of the Arab Maghreb in their recent summit in Algiers. [passage omitted]

As for Mr Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan foreign minister and chairman of the Moroccan delegation, he stressed that this 3d meeting in Tunis is in response to an initiative by the Tunisian Government to complement the work entrusted by our leaders at the Algiers summit. [passage omitted]

Major al-Kuwaylidi al-Humaydi expressed optimism for the success of this meeting. [passage omitted]

Before the beginning of the closed session to discuss the agenda of the higher committee, the chairman of the Algerian delegation, Mr Boualem Bessaïeh, thanked Tunisia for the initiative of proposing this higher committee, which he said constitutes an important step and a critical stage towards the preparations of the second Maghreb summit. [passage omitted]

As for the agenda of the committee, it was summarized by Mr Hedi Baccouche in two points. The first is deepening the recommendations and proposals of the subcommittees which were discussed and ratified in the economic, social, and security fields. The second point is discussing the Maghreb structure, which is a Moroccan proposal, and discussing the final draft, which will be presented to the Marrakesh summit to facilitate the adoption of firm resolutions.

The morning session ended about 1230 and will be resumed about 1600 today.

Meeting Ends, Statement Issued

LD2501002389 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
2300 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Tonight in Tunis the Higher Maghreb Commission concluded its third session by issuing the following press statement, which was read by Abdelhamid Escheikh, the minister of foreign affairs, at an open meeting attended by local, Arab, and foreign media:

[Begin Escheikh recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In preparation for the forthcoming Maghreb summit conference, the Maghreb Commission held its third session in Tunis on 23 and 24 January 1989. It considered the results of the work of its two preceding sessions, which followed the historical [words indistinct] summit of Algiers, and the means necessary to accomplish the unity of the Arab Maghreb. It also reviewed the work of the subcommittee in the financial, customs, economic, cultural, educational, information, social, human, and security spheres. These constitute the beginning of the work of unity, which will enable the leaders to turn it into a practicable plan in accordance with a precise timetable.

To strengthen the forthcoming Maghreb summit, the commission will present a proposal to the leaders in order to issue an historical statement which will place the course of unity [words indistinct]. It was agreed that, to ensure the implementation of these resolutions, it is necessary to draw up a foundation treaty which would strengthen the efforts for Maghreb unity and build its institutions and [words indistinct]. In this context, the commission studied a draft for the establishment of a federated Greater Arab Maghreb and held a comprehensive dialogue on its various phases. The delegations made several observations about it and entrusted the Tunisian delegation with drafting up the observations and passing them on to the forthcoming summit. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Demands 'Immediate' Israeli Withdrawal
JN2301100589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0920 GMT
23 Jan 89

[Text] Muscat, 25 Jan (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has stressed that 1989 is the year of the international conference for peace in the Middle East. He said that 99 percent of the cards of the cause are now in the Arabs' hands and that the current Arab stand is strong, firm, and effective. He added that this has reinforced the Palestine question and supported the credibility of what we say to the world.

In a statement to Omani newspaper AL-WATAN published here today, 'Arafat said: The current Arab stand is based on three main pillars. The first pillar is the Palestinian steadfastness in the face of occupation, whether inside the occupied Arab territories through the valiant Palestinian uprising, or in southern Lebanon. The second pillar is embodied by the Arab rapprochement which enriched the cause. In addition to this is the end of the Iraq-Iran war, something which gave the Arabs much more time to support the Palestinian people's cause.

The Palestinian leader said: As a result of the deterioration of the situation in the occupied Arab territories due to Israel's insistence on perpetrating brutal crimes, we demand the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories. This is not a personal demand, but it is the PNC demand.

The Palestinian leader added: We accept a transitional period under UN auspices that lasts for several months following the Israeli forces' withdrawal. During this transitional period, the Palestinian people will be able to exercise their right to self-determination.

Regarding the intransigent Israeli stand toward peace, 'Arafat asserted that "the stand toward peace is not in Israel's hand, but in the hand of the United States, because Israeli decisionmaking is in Washington and not in Tel Aviv."

'Arafat Terms Rabin Plan 'Absolutely Worthless'
JN2301210489 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1740 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], leader of the revolution and the people, says that the so-called peace plan proposed by Israel's war minister Yitzhaq Rabin is absolutely worthless and deserves no reply.

Hurani Comments on Baker Statement on Dialogue
JN2401100989 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
22 Jan 89 p 31

[Text] Tunis—In an exclusive statement to AL-ANBA', PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani expressed the PLO's desire that the second official meeting between the PLO and the United States take place as soon as possible. Hurani praised the statements made by James Baker, the new U.S. secretary of state, in which he said that dialogue with the PLO is not an end in itself, but should contribute to the attainment of a peaceful solution to the Middle East issue.

Hurani added: We share with Baker this opinion and express our satisfaction with this U.S. concept of dialogue, which places a large responsibility on the United States in its efforts for peace, especially since the PLO has presented its peace initiative, which has enjoyed worldwide support and attention, and the world no longer asks the PLO to offer more than it did.

Asked whether he expects Israel to show flexibility during a tripartite European delegation's visit to occupied Palestine or whether the enemy government prefers to embark on a new step toward peace through the United States, the PLO Executive Committee member said: The Israeli stand is considered a U.S. responsibility. The United States started dialogue with the Palestinian side only after it was convinced of the PLO's tendencies for peace. Therefore, it should now play its role in pushing Israel toward adopting an advanced stand. As for Europe, nobody can deny its role and responsibility in the peace process.

He said this process concerns not only the parties to the conflict and the Soviet Union and the United States, but also the entire world, and has a direct link with Europe, which has interlocked interests in the Middle East region.

Hurani on Prospects for Dialogue With U.S.
LD2401141189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1043 GMT
24 Jan 89

[Text] Tunis, Jan 24 (KUNA)—A Palestinian official denied that Palestine Liberation Organization is currently being pressurized by Arab and Western parties to appoint certain figures in a Palestinian provisional government.

Member of the PLO's Executive Committee 'Abdallah Hurani said in an exclusive interview with KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY here today that the PLO did not start until now its consultations on the new government.

He noted that the formation of this government is not necessary yet since the PLO's Executive Committee is carrying out the tasks of a government.

Asked on the reason for the delay of holding another dialogue session between the PLO and the United States, Hurani said the PLO was waiting until the new American Administration assumes office, announcing that the Palestinian Organization will officially ask the American side to resume dialogue in Tunis. He hoped that this meeting will be held early next month as planned.

On the new American President George Bush's recent statement on the establishment of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation as the best solution to the Palestinian cause, Hurani said this issue concerns the Palestinian people and the American Administration has no affair in it.

He added that the Palestinian people have the freedom to decide on the relation between the Palestinian state and Arab brothers, noting that the PLO had confirmed its stance toward the establishment of a confederation with Jordan.

INA: PLO Calls for Security Council Session
JN2301215889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2128 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Tunis, 23 Jan (INA)—The PLO has called for the convening of an emergency Security Council session to discuss the recent Zionist aggressive escalation against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories.

Palestinian sources informed the INA correspondent in Tunis tonight that the Palestinian request came in a working paper presented by the PLO to a joint meeting held today. The meeting was supervised by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi and PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi and attended by the Arab League assistant secretary generals and a number of PLO Executive Committee members.

The sources said that during the meeting the Arab League endorsed the Palestinian working paper, which also included a request to assign the Arab League councils in the European countries the task of working to expose the Zionist practices against the Palestinian people and win the support of world public opinion for the Palestinian uprising.

A number of practical measures to implement the Arab resolutions on media support for the uprising were also taken. [passage omitted]

PFLP's Habash on 'Arafat's 'Free Concessions'
NC2301140289 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] PFLP Secretary General George Habash has predicted that the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, which, he said, is a result of the popular uprising, will fail. He noted that the policy of the uprising is reflected in the unified command's political communiques, adding there is a

difference between this command's policy and Yasir 'Arafat's harmful policy of free concessions. He stressed the need to continue the struggle to change the PLO's political line.

Commenting on his attitude toward 'Arafat, Habash declared: Nothing links us to 'Arafat's policy—the free concessions policy which has reached the point of recognizing Israel—except the stone and the state, which constitute two basic links.

Habash maintained that those who adopt the policy of free concessions will ultimately discover that such a policy will lead nowhere because a Palestinian state cannot be established on its basis.

He emphasized that the struggle of the masses will put a final end to the illusions harbored by the official PLO leadership about the likelihood of a settlement.

Habash expressed the view that the statements 'Arafat made in his Geneva news conference departed from the resolutions adopted at the recent Algiers PNC session regarding three points: first, his declaration renouncing terrorism; second, the mention of Resolutions 242 and 338 without simultaneously linking them to the right to self-determination; and, third, the issue of recognizing Israel. Habash noted that 'Arafat had bypassed the PNC with regard to these three points. He said: The Soviet Union stresses only one issue; namely, the importance of a Palestinian national unity that is free from any pressure to make the Palestinians follow a particular political line.

PLO, PFLP Statements on Government Cited
JN2401073889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] A PLO spokesman has said the PLO will not form a transitional government before guaranteeing the PLO's participation in an international conference for peace in the Middle East. He said the declaration of this government hinges on the suitable circumstances, foremost being the call for an international conference. He added that once the PLO's participation in this conference is guaranteed, the PNC will declare the formation of a government representing the Palestinians in the international conference negotiations.

The Palestinian spokesman's statement came immediately after the issuance of a PFLP statement in Damascus, which denied reports about the imminent formation of a provisional Palestinian government. The PFLP statement stressed that any talk about a provisional government is an anticipation of events and an attempt to circumvent the PNC resolutions because the Palestinian leadership had decided to postpone its discussion of the subject of a government until mid-February pending the completion of a detailed study in this regard.

The PFLP statement yesterday coincided with statements by its leader George Habash, published in Beirut. These statements included direct criticism of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

In a statement to the newspaper *AL-SAFIR*, Dr Habash said 'Arafat does not abide by the PNC resolutions. He added: Nothing links us to 'Arafat now except the stone and the state and these are two basic links. Habash termed 'Arafat's policy one of free concessions to Israel, stressing that those who adopt such a policy will realize a few months or a year from now that it leads nowhere and that it is not the right way to establish a Palestinian state.

According to Habash, negotiations between the PLO and Washington will be doomed to failure. He added that wagering on the Palestinian people in the occupied territories will put an end to such a harmful and unacceptable policy.

Khalid al-Hasan on U.S.-PLO Dialogue

JN2201191589 Cairo *AL-MUSAWWAR* in Arabic
20 Jan 89 pp 24-26

[Interview with Khalid al-Hasan, chairman of the PNC Foreign and Parliamentary Relations Committee, by Sana' al-Sa'id on 19 January—place not given]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] While attention is focused on the occurrence of tangible progress based on the many positive signs following the great successes scored by the PLO, and on the mission the tripartite European committee will assume in the region, I wonder what the next scenario will be when Bush assumes his responsibility as U.S. President tomorrow, Friday [20 January]?

[Al-Hasan] It is still premature to speak about a scenario with respect to the dialogue with the United States. The United States unquestionably adopts a policy that is hostile to the Palestinian people. President Reagan's term in office has, perhaps, been one of the best eras with respect to the Palestinian people and their cause. One factor distinguishes Bush from his three predecessors. He will assume his post in the White House greatly informed about international politics, including the Middle East issue, as a result of the many posts he has held and the experience he has gained.

The same applies to his Secretary of State James Baker who has a mind of his own and a strong personality. In his capacity as former Treasury secretary, he is familiar with all matters pertaining to the U.S. foreign policy on the international level, particularly with respect to the price the U.S. taxpayer has to pay to support Israel, a price that has reached \$15-21 billion a year. This means that had it not been for U.S. financial assistance, Israel would not have continued to exist at least from an economic point of view.

Therefore, we hope the Bush Administration will adopt a new policy that will be based on neutrality and on playing the role of a balanced and neutral mediator if it really wants to be qualified as a mediator. This is because until now the United States has not been qualified to play such a role.

[Al-Sa'id] Does this mean the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue still has to enter into a practical stage for the attainment of steps that will lead to peace?

[Al-Hasan] The meetings that were held with the U.S. ambassador in Tunis are protocol meetings and have nothing to do with the dialogue. Perhaps the goal of these meetings was to announce that dialogue had become possible. When Bush officially assumes office as President of the United States we will learn what the U.S. intentions and goals are with regard to the dialogue. This can be assessed on the basis of the level of the U.S. delegation to the dialogue, as well as on the basis of the nature of the questions that the U.S. side will raise.

We will then find out if the United States wants a dialogue to understand the Palestinian stand and to ultimately attain a peace that is based on justice, that is, a peace based on the Palestinian people's regaining the minimum level of their national rights through the realization of the Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories that were occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, not to mention the establishment of a Palestinian state, and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Only then can we think about a scenario or a visualization of the nature of the scenario in accordance with which Palestinian moves will take place. [Al-Sa'id] Many people were under the impression that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue held in Tunis centered on terrorism. It would seem that the United States, as in the past, deals with the PLO with the concept of terrorism still on its mind. This means the United States has not yet passed this stage.

[Al-Hasan] The U.S. policy, in the past and at present, fights and accuses every popular militant movement, especially those fighting for social justice in the Third World or struggling to achieve national rights. This is the case with the U.S. stand toward the Palestine question. In the past, the United States accused any such movement of being communist. When Reagan came, the accusation was changed into terrorism. He began accusing every militant movement in the world of terrorism, except, of course, those movements whose policies are in line with U.S. aims.

In Afghanistan, Reagan did not only declare support, but also provided financial and military aid because the conflict was with the Soviet Union. He considered the Afghan mujahidin as working within the context of U.S. interests. Despite the fact the Palestinian struggle is clearer than the Afghan struggle, as it is a matter of existence or nonexistence and not related to the shape of a regime, the United States is accusing the Palestinians

of terrorism. Before that, it had accused them of connection with Moscow, so much so that all U.S. media, without exception, insisted whenever a military operation was carried out or a rocket launched by the Palestinian fedayeen that the rocket was a Soviet-made Katyusha and accused the PLO of terrorism.

This was in line with the mentality of the United States, which possesses news media capable of justifying such a stand. Then the uprising came and the United States stood aghast. Western news media could no longer call Palestinian struggle terrorism. But denouncing terrorism continued to be a U.S. condition. When Shultz announced last month his statement on the opening of dialogue with the PLO, the U.S. ambassador explained the statement, which mentioned terrorism. The Palestinian delegation told him we are coming to talk for the sake of a just peace, not to discuss terrorism, because we are not terrorists, and also our resolutions condemned terrorism. [Al-Sa'id] Do you see the dialogue with the Americans developing toward serious steps along the road to a peaceful settlement or do you think it will remain ceremonial in character?

[Al-Hasan] If past experience is any guide, the dialogue will be a tough exercise. If, on the other hand, the American position is undergoing change, the dialogue will hopefully be constructive enough to lead to a powerful international conference to work out a peace settlement in the region.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you think Palestinian moves beginning with the Algiers PNC resolutions and the subsequent Geneva statement by 'Arafat have had the effect of producing a neutral or pro-PLO American stand?

[Al-Hasan] We do not aspire to a pro-PLO American posture, since the United States seeks to monopolize the Middle East. This U.S. position is at variance not only with the Palestinians but with supreme Arab interests as well as with the USSR, Western European and Japanese interests. In other words, such a U.S. attitude is in conflict with Washington's allies and foes alike. So, bringing about a U.S. bias toward the Palestinian people is not on our agenda. There's no telling about the future, however. We do hope for a neutral United States though. We hope the United States will develop a neutral posture, especially if it means to take the peace process seriously.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you set much store by the United States putting enough pressure on Israel—as the key party in the peace process—to begin a serious and real dialogue with the PLO?

[Al-Hasan] Israel is not the key party. We are up less against Israel than against U.S. policies. In the final analysis, and to quote an American writer, Israel is something like a conglomerate—General Motors, for example—that was hammered out to function as a U.S. surrogate in the region to perpetuate a state of confusion,

fragmentation, and Arab backwardness and foster U.S. interests. It follows that the upcoming dialogue with the United States will be one between adversaries.

The United States will try to end the uprising, seeking recourse to the same tactic Israel is beginning to use. The dialogue with the United States will therefore be tough. The Palestinian stand will be determined by how the Bush Administration handles the dialogue when the true picture of the American position emerges. Will it be continuity or will the Americans come closer to neutrality so the United States along with USSR will be able to play the part of an arbiter that will promote a Mideast settlement based on justice?

[Al-Sa'id] Do you think regional circumstances and expectations for 1989 favor the convening of an international conference this year?

[Al-Hasan] Certainly not. The international conference is still a long way off. Progress to the international conference is tied to the tempo of U.S.-USSR contacts to advance detente. The pace of progress toward the international conference is too slow for it to be held this year or even next.

[Al-Sa'id] Shamir's initiative, planned to be launched shortly, reportedly envisages self-rule in the [occupied] territories. What do you think, especially given that neither Egypt nor Jordan or the PLO stand for self-rule and that it has no legal basis?

[Al-Hasan] Naturally it will be rejected. The Palestinian people within have rejected it even before the PLO did.

[Al-Sa'id] What if Israel proposes a confederal link with the Palestinians of the occupied land and Jordan?

[Al-Hasan] The only confederal ties acceptable to us are with Jordan.

[Al-Sa'id] Shamir's self-styled new initiative is seen by many as an attempt to sow dust in the eyes. They say what is required now is for the PLO to emphasize UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. What do you think?

[Al-Hasan] Shamir is known as an enemy to peace. Having been isolated and outflanked by the PLO's recent moves and stands, Israel and Shamir set about talking about a peace initiative to polish their image. Shamir has not changed and the world will find he still is hostile to regional peace.

[Al-Sa'id] Following the advance made by the Palestinians over their previous positions, will they accept new definitions for their goals that translate as a two-state solution? Or will this goal remain ink on paper?

[Al-Hasan] The Palestine question is intensely unique and the international dimension of the Palestinian cause is basic to it. Hence the need for an international stand if a just solution is to be found. Detente and understanding between the United States and USSR especially where the Middle East is concerned will be crucial. As things stand now, however, there has been real change in the world. But the American and Israeli intransigence persists.

[Al-Sa'id] Some wonder whether the present generation is entitled to concede the Palestinians' historic rights to Palestine. At the other end of the scale, the Herut Party asserts Israel will not relinquish its historic rights to the territory.

[Al-Hasan] Initially, we turned down the slogan of the democratic state. Once the independent Palestinian state is set up I think all the circumstances will lend themselves to its realization through persuasion, dialogue, and democratic practice. I, for one, think that, given true international detente, such will be the end result of the historical development of the Palestine question. Then the economic factor will receive special attention.

There is also the awakening of the Arab Jews, that is the eastern Jews who constitute about 65 percent of the Jews in Israel. Despite the fact they form the majority, they are treated like second-class citizens. They have begun questioning their cultural identity and some voices among them are now raised saying they belong to the Arab not the European culture. This points to a change in Israel's internal positions regarding the political process, elections, and political parties. There are many factors indicating that the Jews themselves will ultimately agree to, indeed demand, the establishment of a democratic state in Israel. I wish to see this state in my life parallel to the Swiss system.

[Al-Sa'id] Does this mean that you have now accepted the establishment of a state on part of the Palestinian land and accepted coexistence between two states, Arab and Jewish?

[Al-Hasan] We unilaterally raised the slogan of "two coexisting states." Will coexistence really take place? This does not only depend on us but also on the extent of change in the Zionist mentality from a mentality of aggression to a mentality of coexistence.

[Al-Sa'id] In your opinion, is it possible to create a balanced society with the existence of the two Arab and Jewish states? And can the tune of Israel's military superiority and technological capability disappear under the shadow of the coexistence between the two states?

[Al-Hasan] Israel's military superiority is not an Israeli creation. It was created by the United States, and before that by France. It, therefore, cannot be compared to Palestinian military strength. It can be compared to Arab military strength and here the balance is in favor of the Arabs and this was proved in the 1973 war. Regrettably,

the current Arab situation does not point to an Arab thinking in this direction. As regards technological superiority, we must know that Israeli superiority that appeared over the past years was created by the brains that immigrated to Israel.

Now that immigration to Israel from the West almost stopped, the technological capability is confined to what Israeli universities produce. In this respect, the Palestinian people possess the power to achieve superiority, but this superiority will not appear now as it is not organized. It will be organized when the Palestinian state is established. As for the Arab world, I think that Arab technological superiority already exists. But there have been no regimes wishing so far to organize Arab brains to create a society in which technology is the basis of productivity, in other words, a society with technological creativity in the means and kinds of production, which is the main characteristic of our age. [Al-Sa'id] In an attempt to complete the tackling of developments taking place today we should discuss the current European stand. This stand is characterized by constant movement, flexibility, and an attempt to come closer and closer to the Palestinians and their cause. I wonder: Has Europe actually gone beyond the role of mediator and become more capable of activating the stands today?

[Al-Hasan] Europe's role is important and emanates from the size of its interests in the region in addition to other considerations, not least its historic, cultural relationship between Europe and the Middle East. Moreover, Europe shoulders great responsibilities for making the Palestinian people homeless because it participated in the establishment of Israel. Hence, and from the viewpoint of interests and also to remove any blemish attached to its history, Europe should play a role exceeding that of a mediator in order to enable the Palestinian people to regain their rights.

Here I say that Europe can at least apply on Israel the same pressure it had previously applied to the PLO. Even prior to the issuance of the Algiers resolutions Europe used to put pressure on the PLO to recognize both Resolution No 242 and the partition resolution. Now it is time for Europe to put pressure on Israel to recognize Resolution No 242 as well as the Palestinian people and their national rights and also to agree on an international conference as the only practical way to attain a just solution.

Europe should also pressure Israel to relinquish the organized state terrorism it is pursuing whether through occupation or through bombing the camps in Lebanon or applying the iron-fist policy on civilians in the West Bank and Gaza. Moreover, Europe should ask Israel to be a state of peace which seeks peace based on justice. Europe has all the media and economic capabilities which enable it to exert this pressure.

[Al-Sa'id] The EEC states adopted a new initiative toward the Palestine question when they decided to form a three-member committee chaired by Spain and comprising France and Greece to hold a dialogue with Israel, the PLO, and other parties in the region in an attempt to bring viewpoints closer to hold an international conference. How confident are you that the three-member committee will succeed in carrying out this task?

[Al-Hasan] The tripartite committee may not succeed in achieving any results because it will be outspoken with us but reserved when speaking to Israel. Europe should confront Israel bearing in mind all its contradictions with international law and human rights. It must also confront it on the information, political, and economic level, in the same manner that it had confronted us on matters far less important than what Israel is doing. Europe did not recognize the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative. It used to resort to flimsy excuses for not recognizing the PLO.

So far, most of the European countries have not recognized the Palestinian independence declaration, although Europe's present stand on this issue has greatly improved. However, it brought many pressures to bear on us, the latest being the pressure brought to bear on us by the Dutch delegation which left for Tunis and met with PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi. This delegation tried to pressure us a lot by asking the PLO many questions which cannot be justified at this stage, as if the Algiers PNC resolutions had not been issued and 'Arafat had not made his initiative. I would like to say that for this reason Europe must adopt balanced stands and must not be so overtly biased to Israel.

[Al-Sa'id] On the other side, there is Shamir who accuses Europe of adopting unbalanced stands on Israel and that through its current moves it adopts stands that are more biased to the PLO.

[Al-Hasan] Since Israel's establishment as a state, have you ever heard from its leaders anything other than their protests against everything that is not in line with the Israeli viewpoint? This is the nature of its leaders. Israel views as opponents all those who adopt a different viewpoint from the one it wants and it threatens them in an unprecedentedly arrogant manner. Many of the delegations which visited Israel had been humiliated because they had spoken words which did not please the Israeli leaders.

Within this context, I now doubt Israel will agree to the Greek foreign minister's visit to it as member of the tripartite European committee following Greece's recent reception of 'Arafat. The same thing could have happened to the Spanish foreign minister which Israel received on 4 January had 'Arafat visited Spain before the Spanish foreign minister's visit to Israel. But 'Arafat's visit to Spain will take place at a later time, on 27 January, to meet with the tripartite committee.

[Al-Sa'id] Speaking of Greece, you were hoping it would recognize the Palestinian independence declaration. Some say there are signs Greece will announce such a recognition following the rounds of dialogue the tripartite committee intends to carry out in the region and after it submits a comprehensive report on these rounds of dialogue to the EEC.

[Al-Hasan] We consider Greece as being a friendly country. In the EEC, they view it as an Arab country which is a member of the EEC. This shows how much the EEC is biased to Israel. However, Greece's stand so far is a sound and very good stand.

Algeria

Ministry 'Corrects' Boussena's OPEC Remarks
LD2201145289 Algiers APS in English 1336 GMT
22 Jan 89

[Text] Algiers, 22 Jan (APS)—"Algeria is attached to the OPEC unanimous decisions and considered that the most important thing in the present step, is to abide by the organizations's decision and to support the price of 18 dollars per barrel of the crude oil", the spokesman of the Energy Ministry announced.

This declaration corrects then the [word indistinct] attributed by foreign press organs to Mr Sadek Boussena during his recent trip to Abu Dhabi.

"It is certain that the minister reaffirmed that the level of prices cannot only be decided by the OPEC conference. But he never said that he was opposed to a price higher to 18 dollars per barrel", the spokesman concluded.

APS, TASS Sign Cooperation Agreement
LD2501104589 Algiers APS in Arabic 0930 GMT
25 Jan 89

[Text] Algiers 25 Jan (APS)—APS and TASS signed the day before yesterday, Monday, in Algiers a complementary agreement to consolidate the cooperation in the field of news broadcasting. According to this agreement, TASS grants APS the right to relay its full services in Algeria in the future to the consumers, and APS grants the same right to TASS in the Soviet Union.

The signing ceremony was attended by the Soviet ambassador to Algeria.

Egypt

Iranian 'Preconditions' on POW's Rejected
JN2401130389 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
21 Jan 89 p 1

['Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar]

[Text] Egypt last week asked the International Committee of the Red Cross to intensify efforts to convince the Iranian authorities to release the approximately 13,000 Egyptian prisoners held in Iran. Tehran refused to send information to the committee, Italy, or Oman on the Egyptian prisoners. Iran insists on dealing with the Egyptian prisoners as mercenaries. A political source affirmed that the Egyptian Government decided to freeze the discussion of the prisoners issue until the beginning of a comprehensive exchange of prisoners between Iraq and Iran. The source also affirmed that the legal situation of the Egyptian prisoners places them under the Geneva agreements concerning civilian prisoners. It added that Egypt rejected several Iranian attempts to exploit the Egyptian prisoners for dictating preconditions on Cairo. The source also affirmed that Iran's preconditions focus on

the normalization of the Egyptian-Iranian relations, curbing military cooperation between Baghdad and Cairo, and releasing Iran's \$1-billion share in the capital of the Egypt-Iran Bank. This is in addition to the payment of a bus deal worth \$25 million Egypt obtained during the era of the late shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. Egypt's condition for discussing any issues pertaining to the Egyptian-Iranian relations is to reach a final peace in the Gulf area. AL-WAFD also learned that some Egyptian religious scholars will hold talks with Iranian officials to urge them to release the Egyptian prisoners without preconditions.

'Abd al-Majid on Tabah, Prisoners in Iran
NC2401121189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0917 GMT
24 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—Dr 'Isamat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has affirmed that Egypt will not budge on its sovereignty over Tabah, noting that the issue of sovereignty is absolutely unquestionable. He said that Tabah was Egyptian before and after the arbitration panel's ruling. He added that Egypt will not accept partnership in the Sonesta Hotel, noting that the Israelis will be compensated for the hotel after an assessment has been made. He pointed out that the Israeli withdrawal from Tabah should not be linked to the other outstanding issues.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid was commenting on the debate by members of the Arab Affairs, Foreign, and National Security Committees during their joint meeting in the People's Assembly. He pointed out that Egypt calls for inter-Arab differences to be patched up and added that the media campaigns between Egypt and both Libya and Syria have come to a halt. He noted, however, that there are no signs at present that relations between Egypt and these two countries will be resumed.

Regarding the situation in Sudan, Dr 'Abd al-Majid hoped stability and peace would be restored in Sudan. Egypt does not interfere in Sudan's domestic affairs, he said. He revealed that Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi will visit Egypt in early February for talks with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that the resumption of Egyptian-Iranian relations is out of the question for the time being, adding that Iran was the one which severed diplomatic relations with Egypt. Furthermore, he said, Iran has declined to give the International Red Crescent any data regarding the number of Egyptian prisoners held in Iran. He pointed out that according to the Red Cross and Red Crescent estimates, the number of these prisoners is somewhere between 10,000 and 15,000.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid stressed in his comment that the Palestinian uprising will continue and will not be stopped by Israeli weapons, because it is an uprising of a people who have suffered greatly from the Israeli occupation.

The People's Assembly members, from both the majority and the opposition, hailed the wise foreign policy pursued by Egyptian diplomacy under President Husni Mubarak, a policy that has gained respect worldwide and led to the full restoration of relations with the majority of Arab countries. The members called for more efforts to be exerted to strengthen the Arab ranks and for Egypt to continue its support for the Afghan mujahidin. The members asked the government to intensify diplomatic exchanges to maintain Sudan's unity, and proposed that a delegation representing Egyptian parties be sent there in order to urge the Sudanese to preserve their unity and in order to demonstrate the deep fraternity linking the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples.

'Abd al-Majid Comments on Tabah Talks
NC2101123189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT
21 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jan (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stressed that Egyptian sovereignty over Tabah must not be infringed upon. Commenting on a report he received today on the results of the Tabah talks, which were held between the Egyptian and Israeli delegations yesterday and the day before, 'Abd al-Majid said that Israel must first withdraw from Tabah as it did from other points and that negotiations will be held afterward for an agreement on the remaining outstanding issues concerning compensation for the tourist installations and the hotel and entry visas for tourist groups traveling from Israel to Tabah.

Report on Tabah Talks Says No Progress Made
NC2101121989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1056 GMT
21 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jan (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has received a report from Ambassador Nabil al-'Arabi, head of Egypt's delegation to the Tabah talks. The report states that the two meetings held by the Egyptian and Israeli sides at the Sonesta Hotel in the past 2 days did not result in any progress regarding these talks. The report noted that Egypt requested that priority be given to setting up a timetable for the Israeli withdrawal from Tabah. Dr 'Abd al-Majid received the report today when he met with Ambassadors Nabil al-'Arabi and Ibrahim Yusri, director of the Foreign Ministry's Legal Department and member of the Egyptian delegation.

Another round of tripartite talks between Egypt, Israel, and the United States is expected to be held in the next few days after consultations are held between the Egyptian and Israeli Governments regarding the steps to be taken for the restoration of Egyptian sovereignty over Tabah in implementation of the International Arbitration Tribunal's ruling.

Al-Baz on Conference, Ties With Syria, Libya
NC2501100989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT
25 Jan 89

[Text] Riyadh, 25 Jan (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary in the Foreign Ministry and director of the president's Office for Political Affairs, expects the international peace conference to be held by the end of this year. He said that many Israelis are talking about peace, noting that a recent demonstration in Israel included approximately 400,000 Israelis who were repeating the PLO demands. He said this gives an impression that the Israeli community is undergoing a new change and that the hardline groups are about to disappear in Israel.

In an interview with the Saudi paper AL-YAMAMAH published today, Dr al-Baz underlined the significance of the European role in preparing for and taking part in the international peace conference. He said that Europe has a direct and significant influence on both Israel and the United States and that European interests are directly linked with those of the Middle East. In the interview, Dr al-Baz denied that regional groupings constitute a barrier to Arab unity, noting that these groupings can be regarded as a step along the way provided that the concept of unity is clearly defined and that the smaller groupings do not restrict other Arab regions.

Commenting on Egypt's relations with Syria and Libya, Dr al-Baz pointed out that until now and since President Mubarak's accidental meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad during the ICO summit in Kuwait, no meetings have been held between Egyptian and Syrian senior officials. He asserted, however, that Egypt does not object to the resumption of normal ties with Syria. Dr al-Baz noted that communications between Egypt and Libya have not ceased, adding that Libya has always made initiatives through its envoys. However, he said, these initiatives have always been followed by setbacks on Libya's part.

King Husayn To Visit Cairo 25 Jan
NC2401140989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT
24 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—King Husayn of Jordan will arrive in Cairo tomorrow on a 1-day visit. He will hold talks with President Husni Mubarak on the latest Arab and international developments, and the two leaders will coordinate stands on strategic Arab issues. This was stated by a Jordanian source in Cairo. It should be recalled that this visit will take place in the wake of King Husayn's trip to Saudi Arabia today, the purpose of which was to hold discussions on the situation in the Arab region, developments in the Palestinian issue, and the possibility of convening an Arab summit.

Investigation of Lawyer's Group Incident Launched
NC2401191889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1820 GMT
24 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—The State's Higher Prosecution Office today began interrogating Ahmad Nasir, a member of the Lawyers Association Council, and eleven

other defendants, who were arrested at the association headquarters yesterday evening. The prosecution office is investigating several charges, including the attempted premeditated murder of citizen Muhammad Rashad, who was wounded by gunshots while passing in front of the Lawyers Association Building yesterday morning; the act of premeditated arson inside the association's library; the possession of unlicensed arms and ammunition; the occupation of the association building; the prevention of the legitimate association Council members from entering the building; the destruction of public property; and the prevention of public prosecution personnel from entering the association's headquarters to launch an investigation before they were arrested.

On the orders of the public prosecution, the criminal laboratory examined the scene of the fire, which broke out inside the association's building, and the damage caused by it. The arms and ammunitions, which were seized, are now being examined prior to the submission of a report to the public prosecution. The investigations of the State's Higher Prosecution Office are still in progress. Meanwhile, security authorities continued their siege of the Lawyers Association Building, barring entry to it to preserve public security and safety, as well to preserve the association's documents and property.

Mubarak Speaks on Domestic, Foreign Issues
NC2401175389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT
24 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—During his meeting with writers and novelists following his tour of the book fair today, President Husni MUBarak stressed the importance of freedom of speech and opinion. He also affirmed his concern to consolidate democracy in Egypt. This was stated by Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif, who said that at the beginning of the meeting President Mubarak explained his concern to speak frankly on all topics with men of letters. Mubarak emphasized his intention to continue the dialogue with them in an atmosphere of complete freedom of opinion.

The information minister disclosed that President Mubarak held a frank dialogue with the novelists and writers on a number of topics. Mubarak answered all questions and queries in a frank and clear manner.

Asked for his opinion on the importance of the book subsidy, which the questioner said had priority over the bread subsidy, President Mubarak explained that the subsidies provided by the state in all fields, especially with regard to essential commodities, exceeds 10 billion Egyptian pounds annually. President Mubarak noted that a book subsidy exists in the form of school books at the various stages of education, in addition to the subsidy for university books. Moreover, the General Organization of Writers offers books at subsidized prices. The president said that, other than these domains, no need exists for additional subsidies for

books. President Mubarak stressed: We must provide subsidies for bread, because a person with an empty stomach cannot absorb what he reads.

During the meeting novelist Yusuf Idris spoke, stressing that interest in books has reached a zenith at the present time. He referred to the books published by the General Organization of Writers of famous and new authors. Novelist Tharwat Abazah also spoke, emphasizing that there has never been a book subsidy, aside from those provided for school and university books. He called for an expansion of public libraries for old and young people, as well as libraries for schools, clubs, mosques, and churches so that publishers will be assured of the need for a minimum number of editions, which will encourage them to continue to publish.

In this respect, President Mubarak pointed out that he agrees with the view on the necessity of establishing public libraries in towns, villages, and in establishments and institutions. President Mubarak called for the establishment of societies in the governorates that will set up libraries through donations and contributions and that will play a supervisory and administrative role in this regard. He explained that the state cannot shoulder all responsibilities, in addition to the heavy burdens it which already confront it.

Regarding the practice of freedom of opinion—which has characterized President Mubarak's tenure—the extent of the experiment's success and its continuation, and the consideration of it as an example to be followed by other peoples in the region, President Mubarak emphasized that freedom and the freedom of having an opposite opinion, as well as democracy are in the interests of Egypt and its people. The president said: I consider freedom to be one of the best achievements in the past year, despite some violations. It has opened the door to the people's participation in the decision-making process and in mobilizing their forces to achieve development and progress.

President Mubarak emphasized that freedom of opinion serves the people's interests and issues, saying: We must not fear the mistakes that may be made in this freedom's practice because regardless of what the violations may be, the people can correct the course by accepting what is right and rejecting what is wrong. He added: On this basis I believe that successes have been attained along the path of freedom and democracy over the past 7 years. I also believe that matters are progressing well. The president continued: As for Egypt being an example for the peoples in the region, I can only say that each state has its own system of rule, method, and philosophy.

President Mubarak pointed out: In exercising freedom of opinion we must preserve the values and ethics in order to speed up the steps along the path of freedom, increase faith in it, and strengthen the peoples' abidance by it and their conviction that it is necessary.

Asked whether it is necessary to increase the penalty for crimes pertaining to drug trafficking and rape, issue verdicts quickly, and implement the execution verdicts openly in public squares, President Mubarak stressed that the supremacy of the law is not an issue for discussion and that justice is basically what we seek. The president said that justice and the application of the law are the basis upon which society is preserved and the rights of the citizens are guaranteed.

President Mubarak explained that the family has a major and basic role, saying: We consider it to be a grave matter if the family is neglected and if parents fail to supervise their children and allow them to slip into the abyss of narcotics, deny their values, and turn into extremists. It is society's duty to be aware of the danger of the break-up of the family and of parental failure to carry out the basic role of bringing up future generations.

The president pointed out that the government is currently studying a number of draft laws on facilitating the courts' procedure and on increasing the penalties as necessary. He revealed that experts are currently studying amendments to the laws, adding that such amendments require complete and detailed studies.

President Mubarak stressed: I have never agreed to the implementation of a death sentence in a public square. This is an uncivilized way, which has psychological, social, ethical, and behavioral effects. We will not permit it.

Concerning the application in Egypt of measures adopted by some other countries, such as capital punishment for drug offenses, or severe penalties for those who do not implement family planning procedures or are guilty of other social crimes, President Mubarak said: We must not choose measures implemented in other countries for application to our cases. He explained that Egyptian society has its own cases and its own values, customs, and conventions, and these cases must be compatible and integrated. He said that a system of thought exists that governs these complex relationships and, therefore, we must not take a measure from this or that country.

Responding to a question on the subsidy issue, President Mubarak stressed that we deal with this issue in a calm, realistic, and reasonable method so as not to place the vast majority of the people, who are poor, in an intolerable situation. He said: We have a long- and short-term policy in this regard that is governed by priorities in line with society's capabilities and needs in connection with every service or subsidized commodity. President Mubarak added that the well-to-do must voluntarily bear the burden in return for the services they receive, or the electric power, or any other such commodity that they consume.

Regarding state policy against extremism and the political parties law, President Mubarak remarked that the time is not yet appropriate to open a dialogue on amending this law because numerous other national

tasks exist that take priority over this matter. President Mubarak noted that the law governing the Consultative Council elections will be discussed in the next few days. He said the current bill on this issue provides for the implementation of the system of individual election for the new Consultative Council. He pointed out that when the present People's Assembly term expires, we will have a chance to choose the best method for holding the Assembly elections.

On the issue of extremism, President Mubarak stated that the state and all its organs are implementing a coordinated policy to confront extremism. He said that the tendency to extremism in thought must be corrected by thought and dialogue and by a call to adherence to the correct values. He noted, however, that the issue of those who use violence is another matter which is governed by law and the need to preserve the citizens' security and the homeland's stability.

President Mubarak stressed that extremism is not merely an Egyptian phenomenon, but an international one that is afflicting Eastern and Western countries alike, some of which are rich, some poor, some advanced, and some backward. With regard to the capital investment companies and the fate of the depositors' money, President Mubarak announced that some of these companies indeed have brought their activities in line with the law, declared their budgets, and are moving in the right direction. He said that with regard to the companies under investigation, the state is making every effort to determine these companies' assets abroad and to retrieve the greatest possible part of the depositors' money. He declared that, after the judicial authorities complete their investigations, they will take the necessary measures to restore the depositors' money.

Regarding the latest developments in the Tabah issue, President Mubarak revealed that talks are now being conducted between the two countries on the final implementation of the international arbitration panel's resolutions, adding that these talks are being carried out within the framework of Egypt's inalienable right to and definite sovereignty over Tabah. The president disclosed that the meeting of the joint Egyptian-Israeli committee began in the Tabah area today to agree on passage procedures according to Egyptian laws and to evaluate the level of compensation for the hotel and the transfer of its ownership to the state.

The president was asked about the possibility of convening an international peace conference and whether the call for convening it is a mere maneuver and an attempt to contain the Palestinian uprising. In reply, he explained that Egypt had exerted and continues to exert immense efforts to create a general and international public opinion in support of an international conference. He pointed out that there is agreement among the EC members to hold an international conference. He noted that former Israeli Prime Minister Peres had agreed to its convocation.

The president noted that American public opinion is shifting with regard to the international conference, saying that such a conference must be held so that peace may prevail. He added that the conference should not aim to contain the uprising. He pointed out that no one dares to approach the uprising or to curb its momentum other than with serious steps regarding the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights. Within this context, the president noted that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is making great efforts, adding: We must preserve the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue until it achieves the desired results.

The president urged that our moves at this stage should be well-studied, wise, and free from rashness. He said that peace-loving forces in Israel, which speak the language of wisdom and logic, are increasing. The international conference, he noted, is not the goal in itself, adding that the convocation of such a conference means serious work for the sake of achieving a just peace to resolve the Middle East issue. Al-Sharif concluded his statements, saying that President Mubarak had noted the importance of an Arab agreement on the conference, the way of participating in it, and the ensuing steps.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM Interview

*JN230111589 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic
21 Jan 89 pp 24-27*

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by 'Abd al-'Aziz Fahd al-Masa'id in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Masa'id] Mr President, at the beginning of the new year the citizens' hopes, wishes, and ambitions increase. What would President Mubarak say about his hopes, wishes, and ambitions in 1989 on the local, Arab, and world levels?

[Mubarak] I hope this year will be a year of peace. In fact, we are exerting the utmost efforts for the sake of peace. All our contacts with the friendly and European states are also channeled in the direction of peace because peace is the only path leading to a real solution to all key issues. I believe that wars have not decisively resolved any issue, as best proved by the war of Vietnam with the United States. That war continued for many years and was settled only through negotiations. We hope that 1989 will be a year of peace, and we, together with our brothers in the Arab countries, are exerting our utmost efforts to promote the Middle East peace process. We are helped in this regard by the European states, the big powers, and the peace-loving forces in Israel itself. As long as we have confidence in peace, the opposing forces will certainly respond because the current of peace is sweeping and nobody can stop it.

As for the domestic level, we are continuing the process of economic reform according to plans and programs specially drawn up for this purpose. We have many problems, which have piled up throughout the past 60 or 70 years. To remove these heavy accumulations, we had

to embark on a sound planning process because such problems cannot be solved in 1 or 2 years. Consequently, the process of reform takes a long time, and all this is in the interest of the Egyptian citizen. There is also the problem of population increase, which began in the forties and fifties. We are now dealing with it, but resolving it takes a long time. We are doing our utmost in these areas to raise the citizens' living standard.

Although we are passing through difficult years, I am very optimistic that the coming years will bring us prosperity. The results of all that we are doing today will appear in the future. We are today giving youths a chance to reclaim and cultivate land. We are also building houses and spreading electricity. We are doing all this for the future generation, and our development plans take this into consideration. We always say that the generation of youths is part of the overall development process. We have great confidence in our people's awareness and ability to deal with all today's circumstances as well as the present and future. They also have confidence in their homeland, government, and constitutional, economic, and developmental institutions. The result of what we are doing today will not appear tomorrow or the day after. This requires effort, patience, determination, and will.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, how do you view the Syrian and Libyan stands toward the Middle East peace process? What is your assessment of the relationship with Syria after the reported attempt by some Arab states to bring views closer and remove or freeze peripheral differences?

[Mubarak] The brothers in Syria have their own way of thinking. I would like to say there is nothing between me and President al-Asad or Syria. My meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad during the Islamic conference in Kuwait was accidental and was not arranged by anyone. It happened on my own initiative. When I entered the presidents' large hall, I suddenly saw President Hafiz al-Asad and [UAE President] Shaykh Zayid in front of me. I walked up to them and shook hands with President al-Asad. I did that on my own initiative. There is nothing between me and President al-Asad, but we do not allow anyone to dictate his conditions to us. The Egyptian people have not accepted this and will never do so, and they know this quite well. Therefore, I say that the Egyptian people have chosen to live in peace. Let me ask: Is there anyone who doubts that the Egyptian people do not want peace or do not agree to the peace treaty?

This is not possible. Enough of "wars." I once again ask what is wrong with peace? Has it prevented any steps in our or the Arab nation's favor? We are helping the Palestine question more than anyone else. I will speak frankly and without resentment. For example, when I visited the United States last January, I did not forget Syria. Asked about Syria, I said verbatim: We will not forget Syria. During the visit, Richard Murphy and Philip Habib visited Syria and I was told in Dallas about the meeting and what took place during it. We are helping movement toward all the Arab nation's issues.

As for Libya, they say there is nothing called Israel although the world's countries, including the two super-powers and the European, Asian, and African states, recognize Israel. The Soviet Union has recognized it and even helped it join the other members of the United Nations. The colonel [Al-Qadhafi] is free not to recognize it, but this does not mean that it is not recognized. He asks the entire Arab world to wage war. God has granted us a mind with which to think. We fought for many years, but where did we get? We also spent 100 billion [currency not specified] on wars, apart from thousands of martyrs, until we reached the present situation from which we are now suffering. I am therefore not ready to take more risks. Moreover, wars have generally not solved any problem. Regardless of the difficulties or obstacles surrounding the present peace process, our real effort focuses on removing these obstacles and bringing viewpoints closer. We are not all all pessimistic. Today's world is one of peace, peaceful negotiations, and fruitful dialogue, which leads to real results away from blood and fire.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, the international conference has recently imposed itself on the international community in the United States and Israel. There are now those who support the PLO's decisions which came in 'Arafat's speech before the United Nations in Geneva. Do you think the international peace conference will be held this year? Are you optimistic?

[Mubarak] All world public opinion supports the international conference with the exception of Yitzhak Shamir, who does not agree to it. He should respond to the call of peace because the peace-loving forces in Israel and elsewhere are increasing. War has exhausted the region's forces, including Israel. It has also lowered the people's standard of living in Israel itself and the entire region. Let me ask: Is it possible for this situation to continue? Shamir must respond to the call of peace sooner or later because this is the will of the people. Peace will come even though it seems to be a long way ahead. Israel will sooner or later respond to the international conference, and I am optimistic that peace is coming.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, are there any obstacles or delays in the implementation of the Tabah verdict?

[Mubarak] There are no obstacles. Negotiations on the hotel are going on and all remaining points are minor. Israel is committed to the international verdict.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, do you think that Shamir's peace plan, which will be disclosed during his meeting with new U.S. President Bush in Washington, will add anything new or advance the peace process in the region?

[Mubarak] I cannot speculate now about the contents of the Israeli ideas or Shamir's plans. We will accept these ideas and plans and consider them a positive step toward a just peace in the region if they agree with the Arab viewpoint and lead to a solution to the issue.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, can we say that new President George Bush has more positive points than President Reagan?

[Mubarak] I think that President Bush fully understands the issue and has good intentions. These intentions emerged at the beginning of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, which he is eager to maintain. We thank God that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue began before President Bush's assumption of his official duties as a president of the United States. This step, which has already started, will prompt the new U.S. Administration to adopt positive and advanced steps which can serve the Middle East peace process. This change will in one way or another increase our confidence in every joint effort in the near future.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, can we link what is taking place in Lebanon to the Palestine question?

[Mubarak] The Palestine question is the basis. And if this issue is resolved, all other issues will be resolved, stability and tranquillity will prevail in Lebanon, the Golan will be returned to Syria, and all other issues will be resolved. Neither Israel nor any other country can make excuses for the emergence of tension, the outbreak of conflict, or being present in a state like Lebanon. I believe that resolving the Palestine question will restore stability to the entire region because the Palestine question is the essence of all other issues. Frankly, we believe that to resolve the Lebanese issue, all warring forces must leave Lebanon—all of them must leave Lebanon. I believe that the Lebanese can sit at a round table and end their problems.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, amid this darkness prevailing in the region, do you believe that the Palestinian uprising is a shining mark toward achieving a tangible progress? And can Shamir or others stop the uprising?

[Mubarak] The uprising has created noticeable confusion in Israeli society as well as concern and trepidation among the Israeli people and leadership. This is because the Palestinian children and people are waging this uprising as a result of psychological interaction and the coercive circumstances to which the Palestinians have been exposed in the occupied territory as a result of the occupation. This made the Palestinian people use stones and other means to create all this precariousness.

Consequently, neither Shamir nor any other force can stop this popular reaction coming from everywhere. I was asked in America: How can we stop the uprising? I said to them: Neither you, nor any force, including Israel, can stop the uprising. And even the PLO itself cannot stop the uprising if it wanted to do so. This reaction cannot be confined to one area and not another because the uprising stems from the people and from their resistance of the occupation. It is a revolution in which stones are used, not an organized war; it is the revolution of a people who are making

sacrifices to achieve salvation, freedom, and legitimate rights. No force on earth can stop the uprising if the hope and solution are not achieved. Nobody can stop this uprising before its victory.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, in the wake of the cease-fire in the Iraq-Iran war, you warned against the possibility of the resumption of battles between the two countries. President Saddam Husayn has recently reiterated that the Iranians are massing troops along the border with Iraq. Does Your Excellency still think that the battles will resume between Iraq and Iran? Why are the political negotiations between the two countries being obstructed? And what is the possibility of ending the conflict in the region?

[Mubarak] I hope that stability will be achieved between Iraq and Iran. I hope that no other confrontation will take place between the two countries. What happened throughout the past 8 years was enough. I believe that President Saddam Husayn has sufficient flexibility and expressed his readiness to achieve peace. He fully understands the situation. In my recent meeting with him, President Husayn said that he will not close the door on negotiations. Consequently, the Iranian side should respond to peace calls, and the two sides should demonstrate the required flexibility because peace is the responsibility of the two states as well as neighborly countries. We all should work to achieve this stability because it will benefit everybody. Meanwhile, the continuation of the regrettable, destructive war is in nobody's interest. I believe that Iran has been aware—throughout the past years—of the painful catastrophes resulting from the war.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, why has Iran endeavored to end the problem of Egyptian prisoners of war through some Islamic groups without settling this issue through diplomacy? Why has Cairo rejected the Islamic groups' endeavors to meet this demand as well as Iran's attempt to brandish the POW "card" in Egypt's face?

[Mubarak] The Egyptian POW's are exactly like the Iraqi POW's. The Egyptian citizen is a brother of the Iraqi citizen. Moreover, the Egyptian citizen who went to Iraq has experienced the same circumstances as the Iraqi citizen. Hence, any solution should be part of an agreement between Iraq and Iran. The Egyptian citizen has willingly fought alongside his Iraqi brother. I would like to add that there is no "card" for Iran to use against us and that we do not seek such cards. This should be well understood.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, Palestinian Arab political circles expect that Israel will try to end its international isolation, imposed by the PLO's continued successes in its international peace approach, by launching a military operation or preemptive strike against Lebanon or Syria. What is your opinion?

[Mubarak] I would like to ask the circles that disseminate such remarks: Why should Israel strike at Lebanon or Syria, and what are the reasons for such a strike? I cannot

find any reason such speculations should be true. I also believe these opinions are voiced by some people who try to claim profound knowledge of matters.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, what about the awaited Arab summit, which has so far been obstructed due to sideline differences and also due to the fear that it may fail if it convenes? What is your opinion?

[Mubarak] This is perplexing indeed. For example, did some hardline or opposition Arab states not agree on the famous Fes conference? Why do these states now refuse to attend a summit and obstruct it? Egypt is exerting every pan-Arab effort in the direction of its Arab nation, regardless of whether the problem of Egypt's return to the Arab League or the Arab League's return to Egypt is resolved. Four years have passed, and an Arab summit has not yet convened. This is perplexing indeed. Take another example: The OAU convenes periodically as scheduled, and no force can postpone or obstruct its meetings. Let the Arab summit be an emergency one under the current situation instead of the awaited summit so our brothers in the Arab states will sit together and discuss their problems and issues. What is important is to have an effective action and not reactions. This is what people expect from their leaders.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, what is your comment on the GCC as a practical translation of the march toward unity, and also on the current similar attempt to establish the unity of the Arab Maghreb?

[Mubarak] I think the GCC comprises a good, harmonious, and homogeneous group, with its members having much in common. Rumors that Iraq is seeking to join the GCC are groundless. President Saddam stressed this to me, agreeing that there is full harmony among the countries of the GCC and saying that the current integration is based on agreements concluded in the interests of the Arab nation and not aiming at forming axes. Every endeavor or achievement toward unity is for the good of the parties concerned and the entire Arab nation. We in Egypt bless every achievement in this direction. Egypt has always been a calming factor and a brother cooperating with everyone to achieve welfare, strength, and comprehensive development.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, can it be said that Egypt now has a clear export policy? And what about the relationship between the public and private sectors?

[Mubarak] We are moving in various directions. First, we seek to encourage exports, especially since Egyptian industry and various products have been developing, which helps increase our exports and create foreign demand. Second, we encourage the private sector as much as we can. There is a difference between the private sector's situation 6 or 7 years ago and its situation today. We also have the public sector, which must continue because there are basic things with social implications. The public sector achieves social balance and

consequently prevents hatred. Also, the public sector controls prices and sells at prices that suit people with limited income. We cannot determine fixed prices for the private sector and ask this sector to make 2.5 percent profits. It would, of course, reject this. We have many moves to reform all sectors to achieve the desired social and economic development. As for the public sector, we can control it, and we did develop it. Agriculture developed for the sake of exports. We encourage careful investment and are concerned about the growth of our economy to confront the challenges that face every state in the event of any difficulty. We have nothing to hide, and we are clearer than the daylight.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, does this mean that the Egyptian economy is now free and that Egypt is adopting the policy of free economy, which is the backbone of the developed model countries?

[Mubarak] Yes, but taking into consideration what I mentioned, especially the social dimension.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, allow us to ask this question: In your distinguished era, what is your assessment of the current democratic march in Egypt?

[Mubarak] The issue of democracy has its negative aspects. Nevertheless, it is still better than a totalitarian system. Certainly, we want the people to learn because the Egyptian citizen, even before the revolution, has been accustomed not to move no matter how many mistakes he may see unless the head of state or head of government moves. But now, the citizen criticizes many things and I then take any appropriate measures.

Our people know how to differentiate between good and bad things and they can reply to the wrongdoer by telling him that he did such and such and that he was wrong in this and that without awaiting a measure from the head of state against that wrongdoer. I want the people to learn how to reply and how to defend their own destinies, their own property, and anything else. And even if there is anything that may harm the head of state, the people will also be responsible and will make the reply. Therefore, it is impossible to hold the president of the republic responsible for everything. The state can only happen if there is a totalitarian system so that no one can utter a single word; consequently, corruption will spread and no one will know anything about it.

On the contrary, when there is democracy and freedom in Egypt, the people will say that there is much corruption, so I will tell them that this is untrue because the corruption which is made public will be revealed by the state. Hence, had freedom or democracy not been present, there would have been much more corruption than the already existing corruption. There are many examples, and as long as there are people and life there must be corruption. There is no democratic state in the world that has no corruption. There is much corruption in the United States, England, France, and Italy, and

every one of us hears about the magnitude of corruption there. Speaking of dictatorial and totalitarian states, have you ever heard anything about them? If there is no single word about these states, does this mean there is no corruption? No. There are people in these states, too, but the news media cannot publish anything unless they are permitted to do so. Even the communist states are not devoid of administrative development and of the encirclement of corruption in one way or another.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, what about the visit to Cairo by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, monarch of Saudi Arabia?

[Mubarak] In fact, King Fahd is a dear brother and we have had a strong relationship for a long time. He is among the figures with whom I take pride in sitting for long hours, and we have great understanding with one another. I, along with the Egyptian people, welcome him at any time he deems appropriate. Moreover, my relationship with King Fahd is strong and I take pride in his confidence in us and also in his appreciation of Egypt's role and status. In general, we are proud of the strong relations with Saudi Arabia and the GCC states. We look forward to continued promotion of these relations for the welfare and progress of us all.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, during your first and second terms as president, you made several visits to the United States and to European countries. You have never yet visited the Soviet Union. Why? And how do you describe Egyptian-Soviet relations? Are they similar to the Egyptian-U.S. relations? Will there be steps in the future to bolster these relations?

[Mubarak] Since I assumed the position of president in 1981, I have aimed specifically at establishing good and strong relations with all the world's countries, in the East and the West, without any discrimination, in the interests of our Arab nation. Thanks be to God, for the first time in history, our relations with the East, the West, and the Arab and African countries are excellent, except for our relations with Colonel al-Qadhafi in Libya and our brothers in Syria and Iran, which are not the same for reasons of which you are aware. Concerning my visits to the Soviet Union, I visited it several times when I was commander of the Air Force.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, do you think the Soviet Union can play an important role in the current peace issue?

[Mubarak] Certainly, no one can ever predict peace to prevail in any part of the world without the participation of the two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States. Each has its own interests, and if one of them plays a role, the other must play a similar role; otherwise, things will get complicated. These facts are known and taken for granted, especially as regards complicated world problems.

[Al-Masa'id] There is much talk by our Egyptian brothers here and in the Gulf countries about their problems with the capital investment companies, especially the Al-Rayyan "brothers" company, and the loss of their money deposited in those companies. In Kuwait, for instance, there are tens of thousands of Egyptians who paid heavily for their involvement with these companies; namely, their life savings. What is the state going to do for them?

[Mubarak] The legally concerned authorities are currently holding a comprehensive investigation to determine all the money and assets of these companies, whether at home or abroad, to protect the rights of depositors. I want you and the citizens to rest fully assured that we are exerting every possible effort, and we hope to achieve satisfactory results.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, the problem of debts, their burden, and their payment, is still the largest financial and economic burden on the Egyptian development plan. How far have you gone in settling this complicated problem, whether with the IMF or with the creditor states? Have you reached any agreement with the Arab funds to participate in settling this problem? Is it possible to give us some figures?

[Mubarak] Egypt's debts are exactly like any other country's debts. These debts have been spent on the infrastructure. For more than 70 years, Egypt faced difficult circumstances during the wars it waged. Therefore, most of the facilities and the infrastructure were obstructed; hence, debts emerged. Also, there are accumulated military debts. The civil debts can be discussed, but the difficulty lies in the military debts due to the terrible increase both in the price of arms and in the U.S. military debts. We faced some circumstances in the past years because the interest rate of these debts was high, which exhausted us on the economic level from 1979 to 1982.

During these years, I held contacts with the United States and I told them that we do not pay money at all. They regarded the military grant as a nonrefundable grant, and it totals \$1.6 billion. [sentence as published] We still hold contacts with the U.S. side to reduce the debts, and I expect that the U.S. will understand the Egyptian economic situation. I also expect that the U.S. Administration will understand the situation well. However, you should know that Egypt has not requested aid from any state. Egypt does not run after loans, and none of the "brothers" has presented any offer or loan. This is because we proceed from the principle of tackling our own issues and problems. Many of these problems are due to previous wars, which exhausted numerous billions [currency not specified] in addition to much human and material loss without awaiting a "price." I would like to assert that Egyptian industry, in its various forms, has undergone much development, and so have other sectors. Moreover, we are working to realize social balance and provide strategic industries.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, what message do you address to Kuwait's amir, government, and people?

[Mubarak] No doubt, the Egyptian people and their leadership harbor much appreciation and respect for the brothers in Kuwait. I personally harbor much appreciation and respect for my brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, and toward the brother His Highness Shaykh Sa'd, and also toward all brothers in sisterly Kuwait. I have taken pride in the friendship of his highness the amir since he was heir apparent. I met with him several times when I was vice president, and all our meetings were cordial and extremely realistic. I harbor many good sentiments toward him and I wish him success and a long life because he is an excellent statesman in whose friendship and fraternity I take pride.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, could you shed some light on your expected visit to Washington next March dealing with the peace process in general and bilateral relations?

[Mubarak] To Washington?

[Al-Masa'id] Yes. We read that. Are there any such ideas?

[Mubarak] I read just as you did. However, no dates have been set so far. At any rate, we have a clear cause and dialogue is present and can definitely be developed as far as concerning the international peace conference. We will see what the situation is like to continue dialogue either with the Americans or even with the Israelis. Now, the peace-loving powers are on the increase. The issue of the bloodshed is detested, rejected, and terrifying. No one wants it—neither the Egyptians nor the Israelis themselves. We badly need to start a real peace process to raise the standard of living for everyone and live in peace. What is better? This, or massacres, murders, and bloodshed? The wager on peace is alone the real victory for whoever aspires for it. Wars have never resulted in anything concrete; on the contrary, destruction is their only yield.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, to return to Egypt's return to the Arab League or the return of the Arabs to Egypt: What is your opinion?

[Mubarak] I ask you: What should we do more than we have already done? You could be of benefit to me on how to understand what is said on this issue. Some tell you: Egypt will attend the next Arab summit because there is a difference between the Arab League institution and the Arab summit institution. Others see things differently. Discussion and disagreement centers on or is lost between the Arab summit institution and the Arab League institution. I declare over and over again: If our Arab brothers want what they have actually expressed on this issue—returning to the Arab League or attending the summit—it is their opinion and we welcome it. Egypt is not demanding or seeking anything since it did not, in the first place, isolate itself from the Arab world and always supported the Arab-Egyptian issues in every possible way. In this way,

Egypt exerts all honest efforts toward its Arab nation without expecting any thanks or gratitude in return despite the fact that we much regret this issue. We hope that this is perfectly clear and obvious.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, a suggestion was made at one point which could be called a tripartite agreement or alliance among Egypt, Jordan, and Iraq, as well as the PLO, to form a united political front. How real is this bloc, about which some political observers and Arab media talked at that time?

[Mubarak] I would like to confirm what I declared to you more than once—that we are a part of this Arab nation and will never agree to form a part opposed to another part. Allow me to express my regret over the existence of such talk. To clarify the issue even further, we in Egypt do not believe in and do not function along the axis policy at all. History does not recall that Egypt ever agreed to form axes policies or bilateral blocs against another Arab country. Egypt cannot conceive of forming an alliance with Baghdad, Amman, and the PLO against Syria, for example, or against any other country.

By nature, Egypt always reconciles the Arab brothers. We cannot even join any side against Libya to fight an axis policy. Egypt's role throughout history has been one of accord among the brothers. It has been a calming and reconciling factor. It is not in our book of morals, principles, or goals to form alliances or axes at all. This ought to be firm and clear.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, to continue on the same topic, what about the Egyptian role in Lebanon?

[Mubarak] I said this previously, and I repeat it now: The Lebanese themselves, without interference from anyone, us or other people, are fully capable of resolving their problems. The Muslims and Christians are capable of sitting down at a round negotiating table. I assure you that they will resolve their problem. There is no excuse for any country's presence in Lebanon. Each one of us should recognize the sovereignty of every other country no matter what the excuses or reasons.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, Egypt's stand, which recognized the independent Palestinian state, had a good and positive effect in the Palestinian and Arab circles. Even Syria described this stand as positive. Did Israel on its part not try to do anything to prevent this—object to it, for example—since we heard about protests about this inside Israel?

[Mubarak] Nothing of the kind happened as far as we are concerned. Had there been any charters that dictated that I take this route or not take it, this would have been possible. If, however, it is considered a violation by one party of one article of the Camp David accords, we would object. If they want to consider that our agreement was unilateral, we would in turn reply that annexing Jerusalem was unilaterally done; so was annexing the Golan Heights,

building settlements, and the Lebanon war. They were all unilateral decisions and due to Israel's presence there. Therefore, we have every right to recognize the Palestinian state; nobody can discuss this with us or object at all. I said earlier, and I repeat: Egypt is a decisionmaker, and Israel is not our custodian at all. We cannot be diverted, except toward the voice of justice and logic. Our recognition of the Palestinian state does not violate any charters, irrespective of whether Israel protests.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, did you play the role of mediator between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides before the proclamation of the Palestinian state?

[Mubarak] In fact, there were some kind of differences between King Husayn and Abu 'Ammar. I spoke with King Husayn and he showed understanding and appreciation for the circumstances of the present stage. Good harmony and agreement were achieved between the two when the meeting took place because in every pan-Arab action accord this is a must and that is exactly what happened. In fact, King Husayn has many positive stands as well as an understanding of the need to approximate viewpoints. He is also objective, and well-versed with the dimensions and contexts of these issues. He also completely responded to what we had discussed with him with respect to the Palestinian cause.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, one notices, and Israel has become certain of this, that since the conclusion of the Camp David accords, the Egyptian citizen has been against normalizing relations to serve Israel's interests and many people refuse to visit Israel. What do you have to say about this?

[Mubarak] Actually, we cannot impose on any citizen, whether he is Egyptian or Israeli, to visit Israel or not to visit it. This issue concerns the citizen himself and he is free to make his decision.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, do you believe that the establishment of a unionist or federal project between Jordan and Palestine—the state which Jordan supported—represents a serious and effective initiative toward a confederation or a federation, for example?

[Mubarak] Actually, in the recent Algiers PNC session there was such a proposal which the Council had supported and called for as one of the means that will deprive Israel of any excuse to shelve this cause file. Reality dictates that both Jordan and Palestine cannot—from the premise of their geographic reality—but carry out coordination between them because they have common borders. The entire cause is interwoven. This is what prompted me to speak with brother King Husayn and a meeting between him and brother Yasir 'Arafat took place. The meeting produced positive results. Without this, the issue will not make headway in Israel on the road of the aspired peace. The existence of common

interests between Jordan and the PLO, not to mention the fraternal feelings they have for each other, and the realities all lead to such a thing.

[Al-Masa'id] Mr President, do you believe it is the right time to establish a Palestinian government-in-exile? Do you agree to have Cairo as its headquarters if the PLO so asks?

[Mubarak] Let me tell you my opinion frankly. The first thing that I would do with respect to this issue is to examine the circumstances around me. I am a realistic man and I am also frank. I will ask myself: What should we do to restore the land to its owners? We want to act to attain the major goal. How can we do this? The issue is not only one of ideas or proposals on paper. The main objective is the restoration of the land to its owners, and this is the crux of the problem. As for the subject of having Cairo as the headquarters of the government-in-exile, no one has discussed such a thing with us. This topic has not been raised with us. It is more important that Egypt has not and will never abandon its pan-Arab duty.

Security Forces, Al-Minya Islamic Groups Clash
JN2101153089 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
19 Jan 89 p 1

[By Majdi Hilmi]

[Text] The city of Al-Minya was the scene of violent clashes the night before last between members of Islamic groups and the security forces. The clashes resulted in the death of one citizen and the injury of scores of others from both sides. The incidents began when the Islamic groups set off from Al-Rahman Mosque after evening prayers to protest the extended detention of their leaders in Al-Minya. The security forces confronted the demonstration in the streets of Al-Minya, using tear gas and smoke bombs to disperse the demonstrators. Violent clashes followed, during which the demonstrators used sticks and chains while the security forces used electric clubs. The clashes, which continued for more than an hour, resulted in the death of Subhi Muhammad, a member of the Islamic groups, and the injury of scores of others, including demonstrators, central security soldiers, and a police colonel. Ahmad 'Abdallah Ahmad, a member of the Islamic groups, was admitted into the General Hospital in serious condition. The security forces detained 60 of the demonstrators and chased the members of the Islamic groups through the streets of Al-Minya. The security organs declared a maximum state of alert in Upper Egypt for fear that the disturbances might spread to the Governorates of Asyut and Sawhaj. The situation was still tense yesterday.

Defendant Mahmud Nur al-Din Interviewed
JN2001093289 Kuwait AL-ANBA in Arabic
18 Jan 89 p 25

[Interview with Mahmud Nur al-Din, leader of the Egypt's Revolution Organization, by Sulayman al-Hakim in Cairo—date not given]

[Text] [Al-Hakim] Were there really any financial transactions between you and Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir? What is

the story behind the check about which you were asked during the investigations and which was made out to you by Khalid for \$20,000?

[Nur al-Din] Since Dr Khalid and I are friends, there must be financial dealings between us. This is a normal thing among friends. Regarding the check issue you are asking about, I actually obtained a check for \$20,000 from Dr Khalid to give to the owner of the apartment I intended to buy. The owner made the condition that payment should be in dollars; at that time, I had no bank account in dollars. Therefore, and as a friend, I asked Khalid to write me a check for the required amount, and he did so.

When I was arrested after the organization was discovered, certain investigative sides tried to implicate Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir in the case. When they examined his bank account, they found that a check was made out to me. They asked me about it, and I told them the truth. They also brought the apartment's owner, who testified that what I said about the check was true. However, the prosecution insisted that Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir was involved with the organization and that I used to get money from him to spend on the organization. This is, of course, illogical. An intelligence man like me, and a leader of a secret organization, cannot make financial deals with the organization's members by check, from which the name of the person who issued and cashed them can be known.

These small mistakes cannot be attributed to me, and I cannot have made them. I have said this during my investigations although it needs no explanation. However, the prosecution insisted on including Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir on the list of defendants on the basis of these financial transactions between us which were not related to the organization. These transactions were made before the organization was formed and continued afterwards. As I have said, they were the kind of dealings that exist between friends.

[Al-Hakim] You tried to commit suicide in jail because you felt that certain investigative sides were trying to implicate Dr Mustafa al-Faqi, chief of the president's office for information, in the case. Did you really have any relation with Dr Al-Faqi?

[Nur al-Din] Just like Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, Dr Mustafa al-Faqi is an old friend. We were together in London while I was working for the intelligence service there. Certain investigative sides tried to connect my friendship with Dr Al-Faqi and my involvement in the organization. God is my witness that I have not tried to involve, or even thought of involving, my friend Al-Faqi in the secret activity I was doing because I appreciated his work and the sensitivity of his position. I have neither abused my relationship with him nor used it to benefit the organization and its objectives, despite the fact that these objectives were noble and legitimate. When I found that extreme pressures were made against

me to agree to involve Dr Al-Faqi in the case, I tried to take my life because I preferred to die rather than do injustice to one of my friends.

[Al-Hakim] How did you get the accurate information necessary for the organization's operations, such as the license plate numbers of the U.S. or Israeli Embassy vehicles as well as the places of residence and movement hours?

[Nur al-Din] You may know that I am an intelligence man, and such matters are not difficult for me. I was in charge of the Israeli intelligence activity in London and Western Europe. This means that I have the experience and efficiency to enable me to perform these operations easily and successfully. If you mean that I depend on some of my colleagues who are still working with the Egyptian intelligence service, then I say I do not depend on or try to implicate them with me. I considered it my case, and I alone am responsible for it without the assistance of any of my friends, of whose circumstances I am aware.

[Al-Hakim] Has your relationship with some intelligence colleagues continued despite your resignation?

[Nur al-Din] Yes, I had and continue to have relations with some of those working with the intelligence service and with whom I worked when I was there. You may be surprised to know that the Egyptian People's Assembly has issued a law banning previous intelligence men from giving any information they obtained during their work with the intelligence service. The party meant by this is naturally Egypt's Revolution Organization. I asked that a number of intelligence officers who worked with me in London testify as defense witnesses, but this was made impossible by the issuance of the new law. I will leave this matter to lawyers, because they are better qualified to interpret the law and its circumstances.

[Al-Hakim] Are you upset by Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir's failure to come, and do you think he has abandoned you and the case?

[Nur al-Din] Khalid was not in the organization so he could not abandon it. He was only a friend of mine, and what can a friend do for me in such a situation? What can he offer to me? I would like to tell you, according to my own information, that Khalid is not a fugitive as some claim, but deported or banished. He was asked not to come because his presence would raise problems for them. His stay abroad is in their interest, and I hope he will be allowed to come.

[Al-Hakim] Would his presence, in your opinion, affect the progress of the case?

[Nur al-Din] Certainly. Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir's presence with us on the dock would lead matters to a climax. I do not say that his presence with us would heighten our morale, because this morale is actually high. Likewise, I do not say his presence would affect the court's ruling in our

favor, because we trust in the justness and integrity of the Egyptian judiciary. Khalid's presence on the dock would heat up the case, at least on the media level. It was in my interest and the case's interest to agree to Khalid's presence with us in the organization, but this did not happen. How can I then do injustice to my great friend at a time when I do not do it to any Egyptian or Arab citizen?

[Al-Hakim] What is the truth behind the rumors and allegations they brought out after your arrest that you were gambling in London and that you are wanted there in many cases?

[Nur al-Din] These allegations are part of the terrible distortion campaign to which we were subjected after we were arrested. The aim was to smear our reputation and distort our image with the people, who see us as righteous people and followers of a just cause. They wanted to isolate us and turn people against struggling against and fighting Zionism so that youths would not take us as an example in this way. True, I used to go to nightclubs in London. However, this was part of my job in intelligence. One of the clubs has asked me to pay a bill. This is true, but it was not for money I lost in gambling, as they have said. It was for money I spent to obtain certain documents related to an Arab nuclear reactor. I obtained these documents and gave them to the Egyptian Embassy in London. The casino bills were sent to the Egyptian Embassy, not to my address.

[Al-Hakim] What is the truth about the drugs they say were found on you in prison?

[Nur al-Din] They have searched my apartment and found a large quantity of weapons, grenades, and documents related to the organization. However, they have not found any drugs. They took me to jail and sealed the apartment with sealing wax. A month later, they came and told me that they found drugs in my apartment, and I denied any connection with these drugs because after being arrested the apartment was in police custody and I was not responsible for anything in it. Strangely, the apartment was broken into and many valuable things were stolen from it while it was in police custody after I was arrested. I do not know who stole them.

It is illogical to say that they found drugs on me and other members of the organization in prison. How could we obtain drugs with the tight security imposed around us and the thorough search methods, to which our lawyers, who are the only ones allowed to visit us at the current time, are subjected? This is mere lying and a continuous fabrication of the deformation process to which we were subjected. To prove this, the bill of indictment, which the prosecution read before the court and media men, has not touched on these issues at all. Among the charges against us, we were not charged with the possession or taking of drugs because the prosecution absolutely knew that there is no material proof of this and that these were mere allegations. The objective

behind these allegations was to deform our picture and smear our reputation with the public in order to reduce the amount of sympathy for us and the support and backing for us.

[Al-Hakim] In the bill of indictment, it was mentioned that you formed a murder gang, not a political organization. What is your opinion about that?

[Nur al-Din] It is not important whether we are a gang or an organization. What is important is what we do and what our objectives are. Funnily, a movie called "The Gang" was being shown at the same time the organization was carrying out its activity to kill Israelis. The film was also against Israeli presence in Egypt. The film was banned, but was then allowed to be shown.

[Al-Hakim] During my conversation with Ahmad 'Isam, he denied informing the U.S. Embassy and said he informed only the Egyptian authorities. How true is that?

[Nur al-Din] Ahmad 'Isam is a liar. He informed the U.S. Embassy 4 days before our last operation against the Americans. The Americans adopted stringent security measures around a certain target which I had earlier told the organization's members, including 'Isam, would be our next target. However, the Americans were surprised that the operation was carried out elsewhere. I used to conceal things even from the organization's members so that if some information leaked we would be safe and the success of the operation would be guaranteed with the element of surprise. 'Isam was not a prominent member of the organization as he claims. This is proved by the fact that he deluded the Americans and gave them wrong information about our last operation. This proves he was not an influential leader in the organization.

[Al-Hakim] Who else besides you knew the correct information?

[Nur al-Din] To ensure secrecy and success, nobody else knew the correct and accurate information. I discovered in my own way a U.S. intelligence den in an apartment in Misr al-Jadidah. I drew up a plan to destroy it, but I was arrested and forced to inform the Egyptian authorities about it. I went with them there, and they were photographed and their voices recorded. The secretary of the den's director was the wife of an Egyptian pilot. None in the organization except I knew about this den. They were surprised after their arrest that I knew but did not report them.

[Al-Hakim] What, in your opinion, were the real reasons that prompted 'Isam to report the organization?

[Nur al-Din] 'Isam reported the organization under the influence of drugs. He became an addict, and it was not possible to control his actions and ideas. I actually tried to kill him after losing hope of ever treating him.

[Al-Hakim] Do you think 'Isam was linked to U.S. intelligence or its agent?

[Nur al-Din] He was not. Otherwise, I would not have recruited him or allowed him to join the organization. Before becoming an addict, he was a model of patriotism and sacrifice. Afterward, he completely changed and became another person.

[Al-Hakim] It was noted that the number of those killed in your operations was small compared with the size of the operations you carried out and the weapons the security quarters seized with you. How do you explain that?

[Nur al-Din] We were not professional killers; nor did we kill for the sake of killing. We carried out our operations for the purpose of telling the world that Egypt has men who reject capitulation and reject the Jews and Israelis. Therefore, our concern was not to kill as much as to influence Egyptian decisionmaking in favor of the homeland and the Arab nation's goals.

[Al-Hakim] Have you succeeded in this?

[Nur al-Din] I believe so. Otherwise, how do you explain the presence of this huge number of journalists and media men from all over the world? This alone is the greatest propaganda for the justness of our cause, and this is what we really meant.

[Al-Hakim] You began by carrying out operations against the Israelis, but following the Egyptian plane incident you turned against the Americans. Had it not been for this incident, would you have continued your operations only against the Jews, without turning to the Americans?

[Nur al-Din] We consider the Jews and Americans the same thing. Every Jew we kill is American in policy, and every American we kill is Zionist in policy. We carry out political killing operations, and in politics there is no difference between the Israelis and Americans. This is proved by the U.S. decision to prevent 'Arafat from reaching the United Nations, which is not American.

[Al-Hakim] What is your opinion about the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue?

[Nur al-Din] It is merely a means to escape from the critical situation in which America found itself after the world stood in its face for preventing 'Arafat from addressing the United Nations. In any case, it is results that count. Dialogue is not a target in itself; what is important is its outcome.

[Al-Hakim] And what do you think of the declaration of the Palestinian state?

[Nur al-Din] It is a brave and great PLO decision, but it is only a step along the road to a solution. This declaration is not a final solution, and anyone who views the declaration of the Palestinian state as a solution is mistaken.

[Al-Hakim] But it included the recognition of Israel. Is that not similar to what Al-Sadat did, and what you and Egypt's Revolution opposed, as some say?

[Nur al-Din] There is a great difference between what Al-Sadat did and what the PLO did. Al-Sadat recognized Israel, terminated the war with it, and said "the October war is the last one" before getting anything from Israel. However, the PLO recognized Israel and refused to lay down arms. The uprising is continuing and is daily getting stronger. Armed operations against Israel are also continuing. This is an important and influential thing in the settlement process and the results of negotiations at the peace conference. Moreover, Israel eases its grip over the Arab territory and Arab people according to how much it feels it is in hardship and embarrassment. What Al-Sadat did was capitulation and a termination of a state of war before getting anything. When he obtained something, he did so according to Israel's conditions and interests.

[Al-Hakim] Could you tell us about a full day of your life in prison?

[Nur al-Din] A full day in prison is like an incomplete one. I have not known the meaning of time for the 1 and ½ years I have so far spent in prison. All hours and days are alike. I am waiting for nothing, and nothing is waiting for me. I find no meaning for anything related to time. Solitary confinement continues, despite the higher administrative court's decision to end it. Sometimes they allow us to read only the government newspapers and prevent the opposition papers. Food and clothes are offered by the prison, and relatives are allowed to visit us once every 2 weeks. During the visit, which does not last more than a quarter of an hour, the prison officers sit with us. We are also allowed to walk inside the prison walls for 30 minutes daily, and none of us sees the other.

Zambian Boeing Loses Tire at Cairo Airport
NC2401155789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT
24 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jan (MENA)—A state of emergency was declared at Cairo Airport this afternoon after airport workers found a tire on the main runway. The workers reported the incident to the control tower, which discovered that the tire separated from a Boeing 707 belonging to Zambian Airways. The plane, on a flight from Lusaka to Amsterdam, stopped over at Cairo Airport for refueling. During take off, the outer tire of one of its wheels was detached. Air traffic controllers at Cairo Airport reported the incident to Athens Airport so that the latter would contact the pilot of the plane while passing through Greek airspace and advise him to take the necessary measures on landing at Amsterdam.

Sudan

Libyan Envoy Predicts Improved U.S. Relations
AB2401210489 Khartoum SUNA in English 1630 GMT
23 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 24, Jan— Member of the Council of State, Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din reviewed here today with Secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Office [Embassy] Jum'ah Mahdi al-Fazzani economic and commercial relations between the two countries and political developments in the region, especially after the American threats against Libya. Al-Fazzani said following the meeting that Libyan-US relations will witness improvement under the new administration. He added that the meeting discussed the peace efforts in the country [Sudan].

On the other hand, al-Fazzani met today the president of the Council of the South, Angelo Beda, and discussed with him bilateral relations and the efforts exerted by the government to deliver food supplies to needy citizens in the south. The meeting also tackled the possibility of allocating scholarships for southern students in the Libyan universities, Beda said.

Prime Minister Asks To Extend Mandate
AB2401170589 Omdurman National Unity Radio
in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Sadiq Al-Mahdi has asked the Constituent Assembly to extend his mandate so that he may convene the national constitutional conference as soon as possible. He stressed that peace is a religious and a patriotic goal. The Constituent Assembly postponed until next Wednesday its decision on this issue after a motion proposed by the Assembly leader. [passage omitted]

Al-Mahdi Sets Up Tripartite Peace Committee
LD2301122189 Khartoum SUNA in English 1000 GMT
23 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, Jan. 23. (SUNA)—The prime minister Sadiq al-Mahdi has set up a tri-partite committee yesterday to make contacts with the various concerned sides particularly the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement for peace realization in the country. In a meeting with the leaders of political parties in the country, the prime minister said the three man committee is to further clarify some points included in the Sudanese Peace Initiative (SPI) and the the committee is expected to leave for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in the upcoming few days.

He said he made the step "in accordance with the delegation given (to him) by the Constituent Assembly" to work for the convening of the national constitutional conference. The prime minister told the leaders of the political parties yesterday that the most important issue at the moment was "the unity of the internal front" and the work for creation of a unified public opinion on peace and also settling the pending issues with neighbouring countries particularly Ethiopia and Chad.

Meanwhile Al-Mahdi said his government would be working for boosting the prices of crops for the producers in the country. The prime minister will today address the parliament on the economic situation in the country.

SPLA Denies Attacking Lologo Refugee Camp
EA2301200989 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Excerpts] A responsible source in the SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command has described as baseless and pernicious the news broadcast over the BBC yesterday that the SPLA has attacked a refugees camp at Lologo, near Juba. The source categorically stated that no SPLA force ever attacked the above-mentioned camp, and that such an act runs contrary to the basic principles of the SPLM-SPLA, which is fighting to liberate the Sudanese people and establish a Sudan of justice and equality for all. [passage omitted]

The source continued that the culprits in this heinous incident must be the Khartoum troops and their tribal militias, who never made a secret of their plans to wipe out southern. [sentence as heard] [passage omitted]

SUNA Officials Removed After Union Demands
LD2301121789 Khartoum SUNA in English 1014 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 22 (SUNA)—The Director General of the state-run SUDAN NEWS AGENCY (SUNA) Al-Tigani al-Tayyib and five of his top aides have been retired on pension as of today but replacements have not been named yet. The decision to remove the six senior staff of the agency has been one of the demands of the unions of the agency.

Also removed under the decision taken by the Supreme Council Chairman Ahmed al-Mirghani are the deputy director general, Husni Hawash, the directors of the foreign and Arabic newdesks Muhammad al-Fatih Sidahmad and Muhammad Abd' al-Sayyid, director of the economic newdesk Abbas al-Qadi and the financial controller Sayyid Awad al-Sa'id. Husni Hawash and Sayyid Awad al-Sa'id have been on extended leave with full pay since the popular uprising in April of 1985.

Ministry of Information sources said replacements are expected to be named within the coming few days. Removal of the six from office has been one of the major demands of the six unions of the agency accusing Al-Tigani al-Tayyib of inability to promote the agency and the other five of collusion with the deposed regime of former president Ja'far Numayri.

Tunisia

Reportage on Visit by Egypt's Butrus Ghali

Received by President

LD2401142089 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] This morning at the Presidential Palace in Carthage the head of state received Mr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, and President Husni Mubarak's envoy.

The Egyptian minister stated he was happy to meet President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the leader who saved Tunisia and rectified the course for the benefit of the Tunisian people and Arab nation.

Mr Butrus Ghali pointed out that he conveyed to the head of state a message of fraternity and friendship from President Husni Mubarak within the framework of the continuous consultations between Tunisia and Egypt, whether at the level of the Foreign Ministries or at the level of coordination between the Democratic Constitutional Rally and the Egyptian Democratic National Party, or concerning the economic and cultural affairs within the framework of consolidating the relations between the two presidents, states, and peoples.

Signs Minutes on Visit

LD2401204389 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Minutes were signed this afternoon at the Foreign Ministry on the Egyptian-Tunisian talks at the conclusion of the official visit to Tunisia by Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs.

The minutes were signed on the Tunisian side by Habib Ben Yahia, secretary of state for foreign affairs, and on the Egyptian side by Dr Butrus Ghali. Mr. Ben Yahia affirmed the fraternal climate prevailing among Tunisia, Egypt, North Africa, and the Arab world.

On his side, Dr Butrus Ghali voiced happiness at the signing of the minutes on the joint talks between the two sides and thanked the Tunisian Government, headed by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, for the opportunity to strengthen cooperation and brotherhood, not just between Tunisia and Egypt, but for the good of the Arab nation, the Third World, and various organizations to which the two

countries belong. He voiced satisfaction with the political determination of both countries' leaders to reinforce this cooperation to realize the desired objectives: establishing model relations between Tunisia and Egypt and cordial relations with the rest of the Arab countries.

The minutes of the meeting covered the talks held by the Tunisian and Egyptian sides on bilateral relations and the invigoration of cooperation between the two countries in preparation for the joint greater committee meeting to be held in Tunis next spring.

The two sides also studied Arab and African issues in light of recent developments.

Makes Statement, Departs

LD2501005989 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
2300 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Last night [24 Jan], Dr Butrus Ghali left Tunis following a 5-day official visit.

He made a statement in which he said the talks he had with Tunisian officials were very positive, with a harmony of views regarding the most important Arab, African, and international issues. He emphasized the mutual determination of the two governments to invigorate bilateral relations and strengthen cooperation in all fields. He said his visit to Tunisia had provided an opportunity to prepare for the joint Tunisian-Egyptian commission which will convene in the coming months in Tunisia under the chairmanship of the Tunisian and Egyptian prime minister.

Kuwait

New Labor Law Becomes Effective 22 Mar
JN2401191289 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English
23 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] The new labour law, which has been enacted to cope with developments in the manpower market in the private sector, was published in the official gazette, AL-KUWAYT AL-YAWM yesterday. The law will be effective from March 22.

One of the main clauses of the new law bans transfer of residence of workers before three years. People who have lived in Kuwait for 10 consecutive years are, however, exempted.

According to the new law, employers in the private sector cannot recruit foreign workers from outside Kuwait for jobs which Kuwaitis or GCC citizens can occupy. The law also strictly bans foreign workers from working for anyone other than their sponsors. Violators will be deported at the cost of the second employer.

The new law also clamps a total ban on transfer of maids and similar residence permits to the private sector. Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry has imposed an age limit for maids to be recruited. According to a ministry decision maids should be at least 20 years old and should not be over 50.

Oman

'Arafat Interviewed on Palestinian 'Uprising'
JN2401200589 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has praised His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id's international efforts in support of the Palestinian cause. In a statement to Omani television this evening, 'Arafat said that his visit to the Sultanate was a good opportunity to meet with his majesty, may God preserve him, to discuss the various issues and developments on the Palestinian level in particular and the Arab and international levels in general. 'Arafat said that he received from his majesty full support and backing for the Palestinian people's struggle on all levels.

'Arafat expressed profound happiness for visiting fraternal Oman at the kind invitation of his majesty the sultan. He thanked his majesty and the sultanate's government and people for their principled, fraternal, and firm stand toward the Palestinian cause. He said the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territory will continue until the Israeli occupation ends and the Palestinian flag is hoisted over Jerusalem, noting that the uprising has placed Israeli society in a historic impasse.

'Arafat added that the uprising is now in its 14th month and will continue despite the fact that over 600 have been martyred; 5,500 disabled; and 28,000 detained. He noted that the Palestinian call for peace is strategic, adding that now the question is: Will the international community force Israel to submit to peace?

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Welcomes Jordan's King Husayn 24 Jan
LD2401134889 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1330 GMT
24 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Al-Zahrani, 24 Jan (SPA)—His Majesty King ibn Talal of Jordan arrived in the eastern region at 1400 this afternoon. The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, was at Al-Zahrani International Airport to welcome his majesty.

His Majesty King Husayn was also welcomed by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation and inspector-general. [passage omitted]

Holds Meeting With Husayn

LD2401232989 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2259 GMT
24 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Al-Dammam, 24 Jan (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, held a meeting at Al-Aziziyah Palace. [passage omitted]

AL-YAWM Views New U.S. Administration
JN2401103789 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic
20 Jan 89 p 3

[Editorial: "Bush, the White House, and the Middle East Question"]

[Text] Today, George Bush enters the White House as President of the United States of America.

Bush is not a stranger to the White House. For 8 years, he was vice president for former President Ronald Reagan. Thus, the secrets of the White House are not hidden from him. He also took part in forming the policy of Washington during his predecessor's presidency. Therefore, he is well acquainted with all the priority issues in Washington's policy.

What is of interest to us in Bush's entrance to the White House is the fact that he is familiar with Middle East issues, which are of concern to us in the first place. This means that we have gained time in reaching a solution to a number of Middle East questions. This also means that, as a superpower, the United States will move swiftly to resolve and settle these issues. Bush and his

governmental team, which includes many members who worked in President Reagan's administration, are well informed about the Middle East file and these issues.

This calls on us as Arabs to move swiftly with the new U.S. Administration. Just as Reagan ended his presidency with a brave decision that changed the balance of power in the Middle East—that is to open dialogue with the PLO—we must move swiftly to make Bush begin his U.S. presidency with another brave decision, which will add to his international credibility and be considered an Arab success toward resolving the crisis. This move calls for a unified Arab stand toward Washington and our cause in the Middle East. It entails supporting the Palestinian uprising and launching an international media campaign, particularly in the U.S. arena, in order to explain the Zionist massacres against Palestinians in the occupied territories and to create a suitable atmosphere for the U.S. President to take a step toward recognizing the independent Palestinian state.

As for the unified Arab stand toward Washington, this can come by fully agreeing on the form of the international conference for peace in the Middle East. We must also be prepared for all possibilities. Our arrangements for it must include an agreement on forming a joint Arab delegation, which includes all the frontline states and the PLO. The names of the delegation's members must be known so they can be presented quickly if such a stand toward the international conference is achieved. Or there must be agreement on independent Arab delegations for the front-line states, including the independent Palestinian state. Again, the names of the delegations' members must be known.

Israel now has no option but to play on the form of the international conference and Palestinian representation, especially after the beginning of the U.S. dialogue with the PLO. Also, there is the acceptance by the enemy's prime minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, of the UN canopy to hold negotiations on the Middle East question. We do not forget that if the international conference is convened, it will be under the auspices of the United Nations. This means that Shamir is slowly coming closer to the international conference.

With Bush's entrance to the White House, we expect U.S. pressures against Israel to accept the international conference, especially since Bush is well informed on this issue. Shall we prepare ourselves from now on to deal swiftly with the new U.S. Administration, or shall we leave the scene for Israel?

United Arab Emirates

AL-BAYAN on Bush's 'Golden Opportunity'
JN2401155389 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
21 Jan 89 p 1

[Editorial: "Golden Opportunity"]

[Text] With Reagan leaving the White House and George Bush officially and practically taking over, there is a golden opportunity for the new U.S. president to

mend what his predecessor ruined with regard to U.S. credibility in the Third World, and the Arab world in particular. Indeed, he has a greater opportunity to rescue the biggest and richest country in the world from the paws of the Zionist lobby, which almost controls U.S. decision-making to the extent that many people believe that U.S. Middle East policy is formulated in Tel Aviv, rather than in Washington.

The Arabs and the United States have many common interests, but while the Arabs make every possible effort and concession to keep the necessary relations that maintain these interests, the U.S. Administration seizes every opportunity to strike at and strongly shake these relations whenever the affair hinges on the Zionist entity.

Such a situation cannot continue for long. The Arab outrage caused by the U.S. bias toward the Zionist enemy is accumulating and, according to the rules of science, every quantitative accumulation must virtually lead to a qualitative change. The Arabs sincerely hope that this qualitative change will not take place during Bush's term.

All the United States did to ease Arab outrage was accept the principle of dialogue—only a low-level dialogue—with the PLO. This does not justify the use of threatening language to stop this dialogue before it gets off to a serious start. It also cannot reduce the mounting Arab outrage against the United States as it flexes its muscles against a Mediterranean Arab country and continues to use its veto in the Security Council against Arab rights.

The latest Bush statements on "the need for time to assess detente with the Soviet Union", and "reversing the decision to impose sanctions against racist rule in South Africa", and his dashing of any hope for a change in the U.S. stand in the Middle East by saying that "the effort to establish an independent Palestinian state will be a stumbling block in the way of peace", and repeating the pledge to feed rebel gangs in Latin America, all indicate that the Bush administration will not be any different from its predecessor. However, we sincerely hope our conclusions are wrong, and that Bush will realize the extent of his opportunity to enter history as the man who restored the distorted U.S. image.

Yemen Arab Republic

Deputy Prime Minister Makki Leaves for Egypt
JN2401142689 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Brother Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, left for Cairo today on a visit to Egypt.

In a statement to SABA' news agency, brother Makki said he is carrying a message from brother leader President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Egyptian Industry, Energy Ministers Arrive 20 Jan
JN2001218289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT
20 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 20 Jan (INA)—Egyptian Electricity and Energy Minister Mahir Abazah and Industry Minister Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab arrived here today to participate in the celebration of the raising of the Egyptian flag over the headquarters of the Arab Organization for Industrial Development. Dr Yusuf Mazhar, first under secretary of the Industry Ministry, and Rushdi 'Abd al-Hamid, first under secretary of the Transport Ministry, arrived for the same purpose. [passage omitted]

Industry Ministers Meet
JN2101195089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT
21 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jan (INA)—Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, met with Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab, Egyptian industry minister, and Mahir Abazah, Egyptian electricity and energy minister, today. They discussed ways to promote Iraqi-Egyptian cooperation, particularly in the industry and electricity fields.

Ministers Depart 23 Jan
JN2301163089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT
23 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jan (INA)—Muhammad Mahmud 'Abd al-Wahhab, Egyptian industry minister, Eng Mahir Abazah, Egyptian energy and electricity minister, and the accompanying delegation, left Baghdad this afternoon following a 4-day visit to Iraq. Muhammad Mahmud 'Abd al-Wahhab told INA that during the visit the delegation held talks with officials at the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization dealing with the possibilities of coordination and integration between the two countries in the industry and energy fields. He pointed out that it was agreed to form a joint technical committee to make proposals in this regard.

YAR Prime Minister Arrives With Delegation
JN1801144789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT
18 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA)—'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, YAR prime minister and member of the standing committee of the General People's Congress, and his accompanying delegation arrived here today on a visit of several days to Iraq. 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani and his accompanying delegation were welcomed by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Hasan 'Ali, RCC member; Cabinet ministers; the Iraqi ambassador to the YAR; the YAR ambassador to Iraq; and staff of the YAR Embassy in Baghdad.

In a statement to INA, 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani voiced great happiness over visiting Baghdad, the land of Arab steadfastness and heroism and the capital of peace.

He said that this visit seeks to enhance and bolster bilateral relations to serve the common interests of the two countries and help realize the pan-Arab ambitions and aspirations of the Arab nation. He added that the relationship between the two countries is firm and distinguished, thanks to the efforts exerted by the two political leaderships in both Iraq and the YAR under the auspices and patronage of Presidents Saddam Husayn and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, who have always been eager to develop this relationship in various spheres in the service of the higher pan-Arab interests of the Arab nation.

'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani highly valued the victory of the Iraqi people and their valiant steadfastness in their defense of Arab land and efforts to safeguard the sovereign Arab nation. He added: We highly value Iraqi efforts to bring about durable peace through direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran under UN auspices.

The YAR prime minister said he will discuss with Iraqi officials everything to increase cooperation between the two fraternal states and realize the development and civilizational aspirations of both countries and those of their wise leaderships. He said he will also exchange views with Iraqi officials on all Arab issues in order to adopt a unified stand on these issues, foremost among which is the Arabs' central issue—namely, Palestine—in light of the latest developments represented by the escalation of the popular revolt being staged in the occupied Arab territories in the face of the Zionist occupation; the proclamation of the Palestinian state; and the international community's recognition of that state.

The delegation accompanying the YAR prime minister comprises Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister and development minister; Ahmad al-Muhanni, minister of petroleum and mineral wealth; Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi, minister of information and culture; Salih al-Jamali, adviser to the prime minister; Muhammad Sa'id Thafir, director of the Prime Minister's Office; 'Adil Khurshid, under secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Wealth; and a number of officials. 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani will head his country's side to the meetings of the joint Iraqi-YAR committee, which will begin its works later today.

Signs Joint Committee Minutes
JN2101131889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT
21 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jan (INA)—Iraq and the YAR today signed the minutes of establishing the joint higher committee for economic, cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two states. The minutes were signed for the Iraqi side by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first prime minister, and for the YAR side they were signed by Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani.

The minutes state that the establishing of this committee stems from the existing fraternal relations between the Republic of Iraq and the YAR entrenched by Presidents

Saddam Husayn and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He added that the formation of this committee is an implementation of the two presidents' instructions to deepen the fraternal ties between the two states and to achieve the common objectives between them in all fields.

The higher committee assumes the tasks of consultation, coordination, and cooperation in all fields, particularly in the economic, cultural, scientific, and technical fields as well as seeking ways of promoting bilateral cooperation. The joint committee will also review and follow up regularly the implementation of the concluded agreements or the ones to be signed between the two states in the field of cooperation.

The minutes note that the committee will meet once every year and whenever it is necessary in the two capitals in rotation.

In a speech at the signing ceremony, Taha Yasin Ramadan expressed pleasure for the march of fraternal relations between the two countries. He added that these relations reached this advanced standard thanks to the instructions of President Saddam Husayn and his brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Ramadan added that the signing of the joint committee's minutes affirms the honest desire of the two countries' officials to reinforce relations between them as well as their earnest desire to promote these relations in all fields in the interest of the Arab nation.

'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, on his part, affirmed that the formation of the higher committee between the two states will introduce another big step to the march of relations and express the joint desire to develop them. He expressed pleasure with the prosperity and progress he saw in Iraq in the construction, cultural, and technical fields. He added that the progress he saw in Iraq confirms the sound course followed in Iraq under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

Iraq and the YAR also signed three joint minutes for cooperation in the field of oil, information, culture, and trade at the end of the eighth joint committee session.

Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim signed the joint minutes on oil, information, and culture for the Iraqi side while they were signed for the YAR by Ahmad 'Ali al-Muhanni, minister of petroleum and mineral wealth, and Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi, minister of information and culture. The joint minutes on trade cooperation was signed for Iraq by Tahir Muhammad Hassun, minister of housing and reconstruction; and for the YAR by Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister and development minister. The joint minutes on oil cooperation stipulates an increase in the training and education opportunities Iraq offers to the Yemeni cadres in the sphere of oil, as well as offering technical expertise in this field.

The joint minutes on cooperation in the sphere of information and culture deals with the enhancement of cooperation in this field through the exchange of visits of cultural, information, and press delegations; the exchange of publications, photos, researches, and films; and the holding of art exhibitions.

Under the joint minutes on trade cooperation, trade exchange will expand, visits by industrial and trade delegations will increase, and cooperation will be enhanced in the fields of agriculture, transportation, communications, health, planning, higher education, scientific research, housing and construction, sports, youths, and swimming.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN2101121889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT
21 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jan (INA)—'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, YAR prime minister and chairman of the Yemeni side to the meetings of the joint higher committee between the two countries, and his accompanying delegation left Baghdad at noon today after a 4-day visit to Iraq. In a predeparture statement to INA, the YAR prime minister said: I am very pleased with the results of the talks with the Iraqi side. He added that these results will contribute to entrenching the developing fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries. The YAR prime minister also expressed pleasure for meeting with President Saddam Husayn.

The YAR prime minister touched on the achievements attained in Iraq during the years of the war. He said: These achievements have embodied the slogan—one hand builds the country and the other defends its soil. He added that President Saddam Husayn's and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's instructions became a working and executive program executed by the joint higher committee.

'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani was seen off at the airport by Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president; Hasan 'Ali, RCC member; ministers; the Foreign Ministry under secretary; and the YAR ambassador in Baghdad.

YAR Deputy Premier Departs

JN2201122389 Baghdad INA in English 1020 GMT
22 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jan.22, INA—Yemen Arab Republic Deputy Premier and Minister of Development Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar left here today concluding a several days visit to Iraq. During the visit the Yemeni official participated in the meetings of the Iraqi-Yemeni higher committee for joint cooperation which were concluded yesterday in Baghdad.

Shimon Peres Discusses Negotiations With PLO
AU2401152089 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German
23 Jan 89 pp 138-140

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres by Siegfried Kogelfranz and Henri Zoller: "Without Gun and Dagger to Negotiations"; date and place not given]

[Text] DER SPIEGEL: Mr Minister, Israel is attracting worldwide criticism. Many of its friends are repelled by the way it treats the Palestinians. Two decades ago, Israel enjoyed almost worldwide sympathetic feelings. Today it is pilloried in the company of states such as South Africa. What has gone wrong?

Peres: From the outside, everything always looks simple, even though it is incredibly complex in reality. For a young European, it may indeed be simple: There are Jewish people and a Jewish state, and there are the Palestinian people, who do not have a state. However, what is an abstract problem for a young European is a real problem for us, a problem that is linked with bitter experiences. Since the founding of our state we have suffered through five wars, violence and terror in every form—almost day by day, until today.

DER SPIEGEL: And this will probably continue for quite some time, if no solution is found.

Peres: We hoped for a long time that a solution could be found at a Jordanian-Palestinian level. However, Jordan put an end to this and separated itself from the West Bank. And the PLO suddenly changed its rhetoric and has thus acquired a totally new image without any new deeds.

DER SPIEGEL: The PLO has not only changed its rhetoric but also renounced its own violent past.

Peres: Oh, you know, the PLO itself is probably most surprised by the immensely positive reactions to its changed rhetoric. One of them said: "We are building a state on the foundation of our words." However, if one tries to build a state only on words, it may happen that this remains a verbal state. There is more to establishing a state.

DER SPIEGEL: An opponent, for instance, who is ready to talk.

Peres: The problem is that the unexpected consent has made these people too euphoric. They have climbed too high in the tree too quickly. If one sits at the top of such a tree, one hears all kinds of birds sing and thinks that this is a dialogue. However, this is not a dialogue, it is a concert at best, and, first of all, one has to come down from this tree.

DER SPIEGEL: It is an indisputable political reality that the PLO has received a positive response from the world with its recognition of Security Council Resolution 242

on the Middle East conflict and thus also the recognition of Israel. After all, Israel's protective power, the United States, has started a dialogue with the PLO—a dramatic change of course on the part of Washington, which has shocked Israel very much.

Peres: The situation has certainly changed, even though not in such a dramatic way as you think. We see this less dramatically than pragmatically. The PLO has renounced terrorism, but so far only with words. If this declaration is not soon followed by deeds, they will get into serious trouble with the United States again. The PLO is making another mistake. It thinks that if it establishes dialogue with America, America will bring Israel into the game. However, Israel will always decide for itself on its fate.

DER SPIEGEL: Also on whether it will talk to the Palestinians at all?

Peres: The problem is how such talks should be started. I myself certainly grant—and I have always done this—that the Palestinians are an independent people, that they have legitimate rights, and that they are desperate

DER SPIEGEL: ... which they have been showing quite effectively with their uprising, the intifadah [uprising].

Peres: Yes, with this they show their political will. And of course, there can only be a political solution to the problem. We have to sit down and negotiate, without any preconditions. However, if a solution is to be forced without negotiations, there will, unfortunately, not be any solution at all.

DER SPIEGEL: So far the Israeli Government has refused any contact with the PLO, which the majority of the Palestinians in the occupied territories consider their representative.

Peres: This may seem to be true if one looks only at the surface. In reality, there is the question: With whom should we negotiate? With the Palestinians who live in the West Bank and in Gaza or with those in Jordan? And who represents them? The PLO is contradicting itself in this respect. It says: We represent the Palestinians in the diaspora. However, who are they? Do they also include the 1 and ½ million Palestinians who live in Jordan—yes or no?

DER SPIEGEL: This should be decided by the Palestinians in Jordan.

Peres: Of course, but we would like to know. There are 1 and ½ million Palestinians east of the River Jordan and 1 and ½ million west of the river. King Husayn freed himself from responsibility for those on the West Bank, but not for those on the East Bank, in his country. Therefore, we need at least a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. We would like to deal with representatives of

the Palestinians on the West Bank, who really can show a mandate of speaking for these people. We would like to tell them: Determine your representatives yourselves, and we will establish all necessary preconditions so that you can elect them freely and without being influenced—even under the supervision of international observers, if you like.

DER SPIEGEL: Is this the personal position of Minister Peres or that of the Israeli Government?

Peres: The Government does not yet have such a clear position. This is my view of the matter. I am in favor of negotiating either with the Palestinians alone, with the Jordanians and the Palestinians, or with a Palestinian-Jordanian-Egyptian delegation.

DER SPIEGEL: How do the Egyptians come into the game? They do not represent any Palestinians.

Peres: Because Egypt had a leading role in the entire peace process in the Middle East. The Egyptian experiences could be certainly useful.

DER SPIEGEL: But what if the Palestinians do not like all this and insist on a PLO delegation?

Peres: We want peace with the Palestinian people, not with an organization. I prefer any representation elected by the people over one that is determined only by certain events.

DER SPIEGEL: This is a circular argument. The PLO is recognized as the representative of the Palestinian people by the United Nations and by the Americans.

Peres: This may be true, but we will not negotiate with anyone who shoots at us. And the PLO still is an organization that uses terror as a weapon. I go as far as saying that I can talk to any Palestinian who does not face me with a weapon in his hand and who is really looking for peace, no matter what his views or his personal history. However, I insist that he comes without a gun and without a dagger to the negotiating table.

DER SPIEGEL: Is this an offer?

Peres: I am ready to negotiate, but I would prefer to make peace with people who have a democratic legitimation.

DER SPIEGEL: The democratic tradition is not very much developed among the Arabs—can one let efforts for peace fail because of this? The Palestinians in the West Bank want their own state and they want it now. This is demonstrated by the intifadah, which has been going on for 13 months and which Israel cannot quench. About 400 Palestinians have been killed, thousands have

been injured and put into camps, others have been expelled. However, many Israelis still think that the uprising can be suppressed by military means if one only beats hard enough.

Peres: I do not think that the intifadah can be stopped by military means. But the intifadah only reflects the situation. It is a disease, the result of an unsolved problem. In order to overcome the disease we have to heal its causes.

DER SPIEGEL: You say that the intifadah cannot be stopped by military means. Your party colleague, Defense Minister Rabin, however, supports increasingly stronger repression—and that after 26 Palestinians were killed and 500 were injured in December, more than ever before during 1 single month since the outbreak of the uprising. Where is this escalation going to end?

Peres: Before a solution can be found, we have to guarantee security in the West Bank and in Gaza. As long as the violence of the stone-throwers is escalating, the counterviolence will necessarily increase, too. The Government is responsible for the lives of all those who live in the West Bank—of the Jews and the Arabs—and it has to act accordingly.

DER SPIEGEL: Shooting and killing to save lives?

Peres: The best would be to stop shooting and to start talking. However, to date the Arabs have repeatedly tried to force Israel down with weapons; a single wise Arab preferred words over weapons—Al-Sadat. He achieved more with negotiations than all Arabs together have ever achieved by war. The Palestinians should not repeat their eternal mistakes. Even a man like me, who is ready for concessions to peace, cannot make any concessions to terror.

DER SPIEGEL: The violence is certainly not only perpetrated by Palestinian children who throw stones, but with increasing frequency also by radical Jewish settlers.

Peres: I categorically condemn their actions. We are trying everything to stop them.

DER SPIEGEL: Not always with much success. Mr Minister, you yourself fought for the freedom of your country, you are a convinced socialist. Can you not understand the Palestinians who are fighting for their freedom?

Peres: I can understand them very well. But I want the bloodshed to stop, and I am willing to contribute to this whatever I can. However, they on their part have to stop, too, they cannot talk like the prophet Isaiah and kill like Al-Qadhafi.

DER SPIEGEL: But they have, after all, not achieved anything over all the years during which they kept quiet.

Peres: They were incapable of achieving anything as long as they did not want to negotiate.

DER SPIEGEL: And now the Israeli Government, to which you belong, refuses to engage in a dialogue. Sometimes it seems that the quarrel within the Israeli Government is hindering negotiations more than the conflict between Israel and the Arabs.

Peres: This would change immediately, if we were to see a partner on the other side. This was the same in Al-Sadat's case. Before he came to Jerusalem, only very few Israelis were ready for a compromise on the Sin'ai Peninsula. When he came, this changed immediately. As long as the PLO thinks that it only has to convince Washington to make Jerusalem agree, it is mistaken.

DER SPIEGEL: After all, Washington's turn-around has shocked Israel. The irritation of the U.S. Jews about a move to the right in Israel has had an effect. Has this development in America made you decide to enter into another coalition with the right Likud Bloc in order to prevent an ultrarightist government?

Peres: This may have been one of the reasons, but there were also several others. We simply thought about where we can achieve more—in a coalition or outside the government. Against all reservations, we decided to preserve Jewish solidarity so as to signal to the Arabs: If you really want, there is a chance to negotiate on peace.

DER SPIEGEL: And when could such a chance be used in your view—this year?

Peres: It will take half a year, perhaps three-quarters of a year, before the new U.S. Administration can become active in this matter, because it has to find a more realistic approach than to date. During this time, the Palestinians themselves have to show whether they are serious. They have to stop their terror.

DER SPIEGEL: What do you expect of the new U.S. Administration? Could Israel not have much more difficult relations with its protective power in the future?

Peres: Not if we react with a convincing peace policy. In this connection, I am impressed by the changed Soviet policy. The Russians under Gorbachev seem to prefer peace over weapons. They have understood that they have had little benefit from supplying half the world with weapons: no prestige, no victories, not even profit.

DER SPIEGEL: Moscow has already taken the appropriate steps, in Afghanistan, in Angola. If the Kremlin wants peace also in the Middle East, the Arabs and the Israelis will have little choice but to participate in this concert.

Peres: Yes, but to date we have many trumpets, but, unfortunately, no orchestra.

DER SPIEGEL: Mr Minister, thank you for this interview.

Rabin Discusses Settlers' Motives, IDF Tasks
TA2301190589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1730 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that he never promised that no stone would be thrown in the territories, just as he has never said that no Katyushas would be fired at towns in northern Israel. Minister Rabin addressed the Knesset during a Plenum debate on the settlers' hunger strike being staged near the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. He called on the settlers to halt the strike. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports from the Knesset:

[Begin recording] [Raz] Yitzhaq Rabin suspects that the settlers' strike was not prompted by only the intifadah [uprising], but also by their desire to convince the public of their politics and establish more settlements.

As for the situation in the territories: The IDF and the security forces must restore quiet. The following is what calm means:

[Rabin] I have never said that no stone or Molotov cocktail would be hurled, just as I have never charged the IDF—when it was deployed along the Lebanese border, fighting terrorism which has never been liquidated, which continues being used against us even now, 6 and ½ years after the Lebanon War—I have never charged them with the task of attaining a situation in which not a single Katyusha is launched. What I asked them to do was allow Galilee residents to live in peace. What I am asking them to do now is bring about calm.

[Raz] The second task of the IDF and the security forces is to enable the Civil Administration to function properly. [passage omitted]

On Orders on Opening Fire
TA2401124589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that the defense establishment is examining the possibility of denying those who participate in riots the right to work in Israel.

Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that the defense minister told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that all the instructions given IDF soldiers on firing in the territories have the backing of the military advocate general and that he personally does not accept any soldier committing clearly illegal acts. Mr Rabin made it clear that there is a standing order against shooting at women and children. Procedures for getting suspects to halt are implemented only when a stone thrower is clearly identified. At the same time, said

Rabin, the order says that children are not to be shot at; they are to be apprehended, and a painful but not impossible bail is to be set for their release.

The defense minister stressed that the problem of the uprising in the territories will not be solved by military force and that there are differences of opinion on this matter between various parties in Israel. He added that he would not respond publicly to the prime minister's remark that his phased plan to solve the problem of the territories is impractical.

Approves Plan for IDF Cuts

TA2501104289 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
25 Jan 89 p A2

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday approved the plan for budget cuts in fiscal 1989 as submitted by the chief of staff. After yesterday's discussion, one of the participants said: "Everybody left the meeting dissatisfied. The implications of the cuts are very serious for the IDF." A senior military source said: "Now more than ever we are feeling the harm done by the uprising, in terms of the army's preparations for the main threat it is facing along the borders."

The bulk of the cuts will be implemented in the areas of procurement and development of weapons in industries. The projects affected are included in the IDF's work plan. Some of the projects have been postponed until their fate is decided in several months. Others have been spread out over more years than originally planned.

The army's buildup will also be seriously harmed; in fact it will be almost completely frozen. Reserve soldiers belonging to the ground forces will enjoy only a slight improvement in their training, which has been seriously harmed over the past 2 years. The IDF Logistics Branch's budget will also be reduced. The discussion did not touch on the fate of the Navy's procurement project. It is being said in the IDF, however, that apparently it will be necessary to decrease Israeli funds for this project, which is mainly financed from the U.S. aid budget.

Rabin Tells Knesset Deportation Orders Decreased

TA2401161589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] The IDF has decreased the number of expulsion orders against inhabitants of the territories. This change has been instituted because of doubts regarding the effectiveness of this measure. This was the explanation provided today by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Our Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar reports on the session:

[Begin recording] Over the last few days, a drop has been noted in the number of incidents in Judaea and Samaria. This was reported this morning to the new Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The decision earlier this week to close the schools in the territories resulted in fewer riots and a smaller number of casualties. When the schools were open, reported the defense minister, it was mainly youths who were hurt because the riots took place near the educational institutions. National Religious Party Knesset Member Hanan Porat asked the defense minister whether political considerations led to the decision to limit the deportations. Rabin disclosed that the decision was taken because the IDF doubts the effectiveness of this move. Rabin told the committee members that the orders on opening fire issued to IDF soldiers in the territories are first approved by the Military Advocate General. His office looks into the orders acceptability to the High Court of Justice.

The defense minister complained about media reports of the orders on opening fire. By reading the orders, he said, stone throwers are able to find the answer to plastic bullets. Now they throw the rocks from behind low, knee-level walls. If IDF patrols are unescorted by officers, related Rabin, the rioters do not fear the plastic bullets.

Yosi Sarid of the Citizens Rights Movement said that every instruction that involves the risk of killing people has the odor of illegality. Mr Rabin retorted curtly: Then enjoy the smell! The IDF, reported Rabin, is considering prohibiting rioters from working in Israel. No decision has been made on the issue yet, he added. On another matter, the committee was told that Libya plans to continue to produce chemical weapons despite the U.S. threats and international limitations. Upon leaving the meeting hall, the defense minister refused to comment on the prime minister's reaction to his political plan. [end recording]

Knesset Approves Composition of Committees

TA2401113489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 24 Jan 89 p 2

[Report by Knesset correspondent Dvora Getzler]

[Text] Nearly three months after the November 1 election, the Knesset yesterday approved the composition of its 10 committees. Disagreements over the division of the spoils between the Likud and the Alignment, the two major partners in the national-unity government, had initially held up the formation of the committees. But for the past 10 days or so the delay was due to a row over Finance Minister Shim'on Peres's refusal to appoint a Likud man as deputy finance minister. On Sunday, Peres promised that the coalition agreement on deputy ministers would be honoured within two months.

The House Committee is to be headed by the Likud's Hayim Corfu; Finance by the Alignment's Mikha Harish; Foreign Affairs and Defence by Eliyahu Ben-Elisar (Likud); Legislation, Constitution and Law—Uri'el Linn (Likud); Labour and Social Affairs—Ora Namir (Labour); Education and Culture—Mikha'el Bar Zohar (Labour); Aliyah and Absorption—Mikha'el Kleiner (Likud); Interior—Yehoshu'a Matza (Likud); Economics—Avraham Shohat (Labour); State Comptroller—David Liba'i (Labour). Only two who were chairmen in the 11th Knesset have retained their posts—Namir and Liba'i.

IDF 'Top Echelon' 'Pessimistic' on Territories
TA2401141389 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
24 Jan 89 pp 1,4

[Report by Avi Bnayahu and Uri'el Ben-'Ami]

[Excerpt] The top echelon of the IDF is quite pessimistic about the possibility of lowering the current level of the intifadah [uprising]. According to military estimates, the intifadah will continue at its current level during the coming year with sporadic ups and downs in its intensity. Senior officers believe that no additional means or methods for using IDF troops in the territories exist, beyond those in practice today.

The General Staff has consolidated several principles which include: preventing the standards of the senior and petty officer courses from being affected; increasing the number of Border Police personnel and special companies earmarked for operations in the territories; preventing casualties as much as possible. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 24 January in a report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar on page one adds that "a high-ranking security official revealed a few days ago that Foreign Minister Arens has privately expressed his reservations on the new steps the security establishment has taken to quell the intifadah. Arens complained about the difficulties the new policy poses in explaining Israel's position overseas and in formulating its foreign policy. Members of Arens' inner circle preferred not to comment on the matter."]

IDF Appoints New Civil Defense Commander
TA2201210089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0600 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] Colonel Uri Manos will be appointed this week as Civil Defense commander and will be promoted to the rank of brigadier general. He will replace Brigadier General Aharon Vardi. Colonel Manos has served until now as the GADNA [Youth Battalions] commander.

Entry Permits Viewed for Territories Residents
TA2401141789 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 24 Jan 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Text] The defense establishment is contemplating allowing residents of the territories into Israel only upon presentation of special permits. The permits will be issued to the residents of the territories once a year and will be stapled to their identity cards. Licenses will also be issued for vehicles. The defense establishment and the Civil Administration in the territories wish to increase control over the territories through these permits and thereby increase the locals' dependence on the Civil Administration.

During the first stage, which would begin in approximately 2 months, entry permits would be granted to the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip. Because of the difficulty involved in supervising the entrance of Judaea and Samaria inhabitants, the date for the inclusion of these areas in the plan has not yet been set.

Shamir: Arabs Not Budged From 'True Intention'
TA2401144289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1400 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says that the deterioration in world public opinion of Israel over the past 12 months basically stems from clever public relations campaigns portraying Israel as the aggressor. Our image, said Mr Shamir, has shifted from David battling Goliath to Goliath. At the same time, he noted, the Arabs have not budged at all from their true intention. They still aim to throw the Jews into the sea. All their proposals are nothing but a disguise concealing this desire. Therefore, only a firm united national stand will allow us to combat the phenomenon.

Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that the prime minister was addressing the annual convention of hoteliers held in Jerusalem. He called on the participants of the conference to join the Cabinet's information campaign.

Herzog Participation in Hirohito Rites Approved
TA2201112989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Cabinet this morning approved the participation of President Herzog in the funeral of Japan's Emperor Hirohito. Cabinet ministers were told that the visit was considered important because of relations with Japan. Two ministers, David Levi and Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz, opposed the president's departure, pointing to Hirohito's wartime links with Hitler.

USSR To Participate in Jerusalem Book Fair
TA2401134889 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 24 Jan 89 p 1

[Report from Moscow by Amnon Kapeliuk]

[Excerpt] The Soviet Union will participate in the Jerusalem book fair in March. This will be the first participation of this country in the fair since relations were broken off in 1967. [passage omitted]

Scitex Signs \$1.1 Million Deal With Soviet Firm
TA2001095889 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 20 Jan 89 p A1

[Report by 'Edna Is]

[Text] There has been a breakthrough in the economic-commercial ties between Israel and the Soviet Union: Scitex has sold a photo-imaging system to a large Moscow publishing house. The \$1.1 million deal was signed directly between Scitex and the Soviet publishing house. A senior Scitex executive yesterday described the deal as being "sensational" for the Israeli firm. Scitex tried to keep the deal secret, both for commercial reasons and at the request of the Soviets.

The Soviets bought some printing equipment from Scitex a few years ago, but the purchase was made through a go-between; no contact was established between the Israelis and the Russians. This is the first time that the Russians have approached the Israeli firm directly. Scitex director Ya'ir Shamir yesterday said he was very pleased with the accomplishment. In his opinion, the direct commercial ties established by Scitex and the Russians are the result of the spirit of glasnost currently prevailing in the Soviet Union.

Jewish Library Opens in Cairo 24 Jan
TA2501053989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Excerpt] In Cairo yesterday Israeli academics, Egyptian officials, and the local Jewish community opened a library dedicated to the Jewish heritage in Egypt. It culminated a 6-year project in which about 60,000 books were collected from a dozen unused Cairo synagogues. About 200 people attended the opening, including the deputy governor of Cairo, a group of Egyptian students of Hebrew, and Israeli and American diplomats. [passage omitted]

Chambers of Commerce To Open in Sofia, Tel Aviv
TA1901151389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1430 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] The Israeli and Bulgarian Chambers of Commerce will open official commercial representations in Sofia and Tel Aviv. An agreement on this was signed today by the director of the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Danny Gillerman, president of the Israeli Union of Chambers of Commerce. According to the agreement, offices will be opened in both countries, and economic representatives will initiate commercial transactions and organize trade delegations to further relations between the two countries.

First Group of Indian Reporters Makes Visit

'Rapprochement' Seen in Visit

TA2301063689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0600 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] A group of journalists from India, the first to visit here, arrived in Israel last night. The group includes four of the top reporters from the Indian news agency and major papers. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the journalists will meet the prime minister and the foreign minister for interviews today. They will also visit the Baha'i temple in Haifa, tour a kibbutz, and meet other figures. The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem views the visit as another Indian signal of its intentions toward a rapprochement with Israel.

Arens on Need for Better Ties

TA2301112889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens expressed the hope that the way to establish good and formal ties between Israel and India will soon be found. In the first meeting of its kind between an Israeli foreign minister and four senior Indian reporters, Minister Arens this morning said that because India is the most populous democracy in the world and Israel is a small one, better relations between the two are needed. [passage omitted]

Shamir Urges Improving Ties

TA2301180189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1700 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today called for an improvement in relations between Israel and India. In his first meeting ever with senior Indian journalists, Shamir said that Israel would be ready to launch cultural and economic ties with India and gradually attain normal diplomatic relations. Although this will take time it would be best to start now, the prime minister noted.

India To Open Visa Office

TA2501053889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] India has decided to establish its first official representation in Israel, an office for granting visas. The official reason for opening the office is to make it easier for Indian immigrants to Israel to visit their country of origin. Government sources in Jerusalem say they hope the office will be opened soon. The decision to open the office was disclosed by the Indian foreign minister at a meeting in New Delhi with an American delegation from the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Beirut, Lahd Cooperate on Combating Drugs

TA2101173289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] A new gendarmerie, numbering approximately 100 policemen, began operating in the security zone in southern Lebanon today. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that it was established thanks to cooperation between the Christian government in Beirut and the headquarters of the South Lebanese Army. Part of the policemen's salary will be paid by Beirut, and they will be subordinate to General Lahd. The gendarmerie's job will be to enforce law and order in the south. The force will concentrate on the prevention of drug dealing.

2 SLA Soldiers Killed, 3 Hurt in Security Zone

TA2401180489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] In southern Lebanon, two South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers were killed and three wounded when their vehicle drove over a mine. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the soldiers were driving an APC along a patrol route in the vicinity of the village of Al-Qantarah in the security zone's central section. The mine was apparently placed there by terrorists who arrived from the north during the night.

UNIFIL headquarters sources have said that SLA artillery fired at the village of Qabrikha, north of the security zone, and that some of the shells fell near the local school. The sources added that as the shelling went on, UNIFIL troops drove APC's to the school and rescued the children. The SLA casualties were evacuated to the hospital in Marj 'Uyun. The condition of two of them is said to be moderately grave, while the third was slightly injured.

SLA Holds Villagers, Shoves UNIFIL Soldiers

TA2501091089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0800 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] A South Lebanese Army [SLA] force this morning detained 32 inhabitants of the village of Shab'a in the foothills of Mt Hermon. UNIFIL headquarters told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that on their way to the village the SLA soldiers did not respond to a demand by

UNIFIL's Norwegian contingent to halt. The SLA soldiers dismantled the UNIFIL roadblock and shoved the Norwegians out of their way. Shab'a inhabitants claim that SLA headquarters is trying to coerce them into joining their ranks; the residents are threatened with prison terms if they do not.

SLA's Lahd Discharged From Hospital

TA2201164489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] Thousands of inhabitants of the security zone in southern Lebanon greeted General Antoine Lahd upon his return to his home in Marj 'Uyun. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Gen Lahd, accompanied by Major General Yosi Peled, commander of the Northern Command, was greeted with a military ceremony conducted by South Lebanese Army [SLA] troops. Dignitaries in the area thanked the State of Israel for saving Lahd's life, and pointed out that the dozens of blood transfusions Lahd received during his hospitalization symbolize the blood alliance between the inhabitants of the security zone and the State of Israel.

In a news conference upon being discharged from the hospital, Gen Lahd said that the attempt on his life would not in any way change his policy on the SLA's activities or attitude toward the population of the area. He added that contrary to earlier reports alleging that he would himself try the girl who shot him, she would be brought to trial before a tribunal made up of one civilian and four military judges, while he would ratify the sentence.

Golan Druze Forced To Cancel Trip to Syria

TA2401210189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2000 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] The 80 Golan Heights Druze who were scheduled to leave today on family visits to Syria were obliged to cancel their plans. They failed to obtain the necessary confirmation from the authorities in Damascus. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the list of 80 Druze was relayed to Syria through the International Red Cross about 2 weeks ago and the departure date was set for today. The visit was canceled, however, because the Syrians did not respond.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

More on 24 Jan Incidents

TA2401143189 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 24 Jan 88 pp 1, 10

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] According to Nabulus residents, groups of local youths have set up a makeshift police force following the resignation of local policemen.

The youths mediate and resolve disputes between residents, enforce the instructions printed in underground leaflets, and punish suspected "collaborators" and others suspected of disreputable activity, according to local accounts. [passage omitted]

Raids and clashes were reported in several villages in the Janin area, but there were no casualties. Raids were also reported at Tarqumiyah and Nuba near Hebron, at 'Aqabat Jabr near Jericho. Clashes were reported at the Qalandiyah refugee camp, in Bethlehem and the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp.

[In a report by Avi Bnayahu and Uri'el Ben-'Ami on pages one and four, Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 24 January adds: "In Nabulus yesterday, 12-year-old Muhammad Abu Salah was wounded in the leg by gunfire. Riots were also reported in the Bethlehem area. In Bayt Jala, 25-year-old 'Isam Madar was wounded when a settler opened fire at youngsters who pelted his car with stones. Arrests were made in Tuqu' and Nahallin by IDF troops who used tear gas to quell clashes with local inhabitants. Two women and several children were hospitalized for gas inhalation.

"The IDF conducted operations in Jaba' in the Janin District during which soldiers removed flags and compelled local inhabitants to paint over graffiti. The villagers resisted and, in the ensuing clashes with the soldiers, two girls, a 13-year-old boy, and an 18-year-old youth were wounded by plastic bullets. Arab sources said that IDF soldiers shot water tanks on rooftops in the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp following clashes with local residents."

In a report by Hayim Broida on page three, Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 24 January adds: "Muwafiq Ghanimat of the village of Al-Yamun was attacked by local youths who suspected him of collaborating with the Israeli authorities. They beat him with sticks to make him confess the identity of his Israeli collaborators. Ghanimat was severely wounded and later hospitalized.

"The security troops yesterday enforced an administrative arrest and a confinement order against two well-known activists of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, who are suspected of having instigated young local residents to stage riots. Shaykh Ahmad al-Hajj 'Ali, principal of the school in the Balatah refugee camp in Nabulus, was arrested under an administrative order and is being held at Al-Fari'ah Prison. A confinement order limiting his movements was presented to Shaykh Ahmad al-Bitari of Nabulus, a judge in Tulkarm who is known as a preacher at Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem."]

In the Gaza Strip seven teenagers were shot and wounded yesterday. The IDF spokesman said that only one 14-year-old boy in the Al-Shati' refugee camp was shot and wounded "after he had thrown stones at troops." Palestinian sources said that two more were

wounded in Al-Shati'. In each of three camps—Jabalyah, Al-Shaykh Radwan and Al-Nusayrat—one person was wounded during clashes with troops. Eight-year-old 'Imad Filfil from the Daraj neighbourhood in Gaza was injured in the right hand when the army opened fire. A curfew was in force for the seventh consecutive day yesterday in two Rafah neighbourhoods.

Empty bottles were thrown from a bus travelling south from Ashdod at cars driving in the same direction. No one was hurt and no damage was done. The bus was stopped at the Erez roadblock at the entrance to the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

The [Jerusalem] municipality announced that the government-funded Shu'fat preparatory school for girls and Shu'fat high school for boys would be closed for two weeks, beginning today.

16 Detained in East Jerusalem

TA2401135489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Sixteen residents of Ra's al-'Amud in East Jerusalem were detained this afternoon on suspicion of throwing stones and participating in recent riots. Our police affairs correspondent adds that their detention was part of an initiated operation conducted by the police according to lists made up in advance.

8 Hurt in Gaza Strip Riots

TA2401181189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1700 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Eight residents of the Al-Mughazi refugee camp in the Gaza Strip were injured this afternoon. Most of the injuries, which were slight, were sustained during riots in the camp and were caused by plastic bullets. Some of the injuries were sustained during the security forces' initiated operation against stone throwers.

Reservist Sentenced to Prison

TA2401183689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Reserve Sergeant Arnon Ronen, aged 30, was given an 18-day prison term for refusing to serve in the territories. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that since the beginning of the uprising, 54 soldiers have been sentenced for refusing to serve in the territories.

Kindergartens Closed

TA2401205389 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] The Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria has closed down the kindergartens and nurseries as part of the closure of educational institutions in the territories due to their serving as centers of rioting. The closure of kindergartens was explained by the need to prevent violent confrontations and to reduce the number of

casualties. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that school closure in the territories has indeed reduced the scope of riots and the number of casualties.

Firebomb in West Bank

TA2401204289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2000 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was thrown tonight at an Israeli car in the Samaritan settlement of Ginnat Shomron. No one was hurt and no damage was caused, but the incident inflamed tempers in the settlement. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that several dozen Ari'el residents blocked the trans-Samaria road for a short time tonight and tried to enter the village of Biddiya. An IDF unit prevented their entry and demanded that they disperse and clear the road for traffic. Our correspondent has learned that complaints will be lodged against the traffic blockers.

Gaza Camps' Curfews Lifted

TA2501053089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] Security forces last night demolished a room in the Jabalyah refugee camp belonging to a local inhabitant who was active in a popular committee, threw stones at an IDF patrol, and attacked residents he suspected of cooperating with the Israeli authorities. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that security forces also sealed up two rooms in the homes of two Jabalyah residents who hurled firebombs at IDF patrols and shops at the end of 1988. The curfews on all Gaza Strip refugee camps, with the exception of Al-Mughazi and Dayr al-Balah, were lifted early today.

Baker Testimony Viewed as 'Uplifting Message'

TA1901170189 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
19 Jan 89 p 9

[Editorial: "In the Crucial Points—the United States Remains Faithful"]

[Text] The Israeli Government, which has not recently had the pleasure of encouraging news from abroad, received an uplifting message—or maybe one should say, what would seem to be an uplifting message—2 days ago. The message came from Washington and was further corroborated by London. In his confirmation hearings before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, James Baker, secretary of state-designate in the Bush administration, sounded just like George Shultz: support for Israel; no to an independent Palestinian state. This latter point was corroborated by Mrs Thatcher's office: no to a return to 1967 borders; no to a repartitioning of Jerusalem. From the point of view of the sensible Israeli, albeit not necessarily from that of the Israeli fanatic supporter of the Likud or of parties to the right of it, this is what it is all about.

Although Baker's ayes and nays do not answer all their aspirations, one would like to believe that neither the prime minister nor the foreign minister will downplay the media and diplomatic importance of Baker's testimony. Admittedly, he also insinuated the need to move the Palestinian issue from its stalemate. Nevertheless, the general drift of the Middle East segment of his testimony will be a cold shower for PLO enthusiasts in the international community (and probably for their Israeli counterparts as well). Still, the clear-cut statements may balance the impression created in the aftermath of 'Arafat's appearances in Stockholm and Geneva that the United States might have changed its regional priorities.

One may infer the ayes from the nays. Messrs Shamir and Arens, who are currently preparing for their upcoming visits to Washington, were told via James Baker that the United States remains loyal to the Reagan plan of September 1982 or, translated to political Hebrew, to the territorial compromise. What is more, it regards Jordan—this is the only meaning of its rejection of an independent Palestinian state—as an indispensable partner to finding a solution. In short, the Bush administration upholds the beliefs identified with the Labor Party.

The prime minister and the foreign minister may find solace in two things: that Baker also spoke about an interim arrangement—which may be interpreted as willingness to examine the notion of autonomy, and that although he mentioned an international conference, the secretary of state-designate conditioned it with very strict limitations. Nevertheless, realpolitik—glimmers of which the two men have been showing in their recent statements—has it that both Shamir and Arens should assume that there will be no coordination with the United States based on the Likud's political platform. Foreign Minister Arens has already confirmed that he is aware of this fact and that he is also prepared to take the implications into consideration: "We must not insist on our positions as we did in the past." Coming from a staunch Herut man, this is a new and positive nuance.

Nevertheless, it should be pointed out that neither the position being formulated—perhaps one should rather say reformulated—by the United States, nor the signs of a new Israeli flexibility herald the imminent solution of the Palestinian problem, and even less so, of the uprising in the territories. As depressing as this prognosis may seem, we had better get used to living with it for months, if not years. Unfortunately, there is no short-term correlation between political developments and the continuing uprising in the territories.

Bush Government Urged To Adopt Balanced Policy

TA1901154889 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
19 Jan 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Baker and Realpolitik"]

[Text] In his testimony before the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee over the past 2 days, new Secretary of State James Baker clarified some of the guidelines of

Washington's foreign policy on the Arab-Israeli conflict. In the course of his answers to questions on the Middle East crisis, Baker affirmed that the George Bush administration opposes the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, supports the Reagan administration's positions ruling out Israeli withdrawal to pre-1967 borders, and shares the view of this administration that Jerusalem should remain a united city. As to the PLO and its role in the peace process, Baker said: "Dialogue with the PLO seeks to encourage a realistic political viewpoint with the aim of advancing the peace process in the region."

Obviously, U.S. foreign policy cannot be determined through hearings at the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee. This requires deep deliberations at various international and intercontinental levels, particularly with regard to U.S.-Soviet relations, as well as relations with Western Europe and with the parties involved in the conflict. Realpolitik requires the Bush administration to respond positively to international support for the concept of convening an international conference and to exploit the U.S.-PLO dialogue as a practical step in the right direction toward finding a fundamental solution to the Palestinian problem.

We hope that the new U.S. Administration will formulate its foreign policy on the Middle East region divorced from propaganda speeches and public relations and on the basis of realpolitik dealing with all the existing facts. There remains an important factor, namely that Washington should treat the demands of the parties concerned in a balanced manner. If it succeeds in this, progress can be achieved on the road to peace. If, however, it fails to undertake this role, it will mean that the Middle East problem will remain in the vicious cycle that has continued for scores of years.

U.S. 'Demand' for 'Arafat Explanation Questioned
TA2401155489 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
21 Jan 89 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "What Is the United States Seeking?"]

[Text] It seems that the United States is "regretting" its dialogue with the PLO. This dialogue was launched on the 16th of December during the era of the outgoing U.S. Administration, the Reagan administration, and is expected to be resumed in the era of the next administration, the Bush administration.

We were not the only ones surprised by the announcement of the United States' decision to open a dialogue with the PLO in the wake of the historic and famous speech by Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat at the UN meeting in Geneva—in which he declared the PLO's renunciation of terrorism in all its forms. The entire world was taken by surprise by this U.S. decision. This is because of the hostility manifested by consecutive U.S. Administrations toward the Palestinian people and their

just cause, and also because these administrations refrained from recognizing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

It is said that once the reason becomes obvious amazement ceases. The United States did not become sympathetic toward the Palestinian people and responsive to their hopes and aspirations overnight. It was forced to this by the international pressure to launch a dialogue with the PLO on one hand, and its attempts to "ease" the vehemence of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories on the other. Therefore, we can find an explanation of this possible, if not certain, "regret" that has apparently now overtaken the United States in the form of the U.S. demand for interpretations concerning alleged statements attributed to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat. It is rumored that in these statements he threatened to "kill" anyone who calls for a halt to the uprising before it achieves its objective.

At any rate, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, head of the PLO information department, replied that "terrorism" is not practiced with words but deeds, and we ask: Why does the United States "insist" on demanding interpretations of a statement, which may not have been made in the first place, instead of exerting prompt efforts to assist in establishing peace through finding an acceptable solution to the Palestinian problem? Is the United States merely seeking pretexts to stop its dialogue with the PLO?

Likud Minister Seen Moderating Positions
TA2001141989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
20 Nov 89 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "Shooting, Weeping, and Sobering Up"]

[Text] We had to rub our eyes and pinch ourselves to believe what we saw: Likud ministers criticizing Rabin's heavy-handed policy, especially the killings, in the territories; Shamir calling the settlers "lunatics" and allowing media coverage of himself being put on the spot in a gathering with paratroopers in Nablus who complained about "the disintegration of values;" up-and-coming figures such as Dan Meridor and Ehud Olmert deriding—who would have believed it?—the political rigidity and extremism of Rabin, who once shared Peres' peace initiatives; Moshe Arens speaking about the need for a political initiative that would take Palestinian aspirations into account. Considering the fact that the Palestinians have no aspirations other than independence, nobody is astonished that Yosi Sarid, of all people, is constantly praising Arens while Ge'ula Kohen abuses Yitzhaq Shamir, her erstwhile commander in the LEHI [pre-state underground military organization].

This is no optical illusion. While Shim'on "Mr Peace" Peres squabbles with Histadrut officials Yisra'el Qaysar and Hayim Haberfeld and is preoccupied with stories in the newspapers about the domestic staff in his residence

and the model of his official car, things are happening in the Likud. Says a Likud minister: "What do you think? That human feelings and upholding moral values are the monopoly of the left? We are no less appalled when an Arab child is killed or when innocent people are injured." Meridor said this explicitly at a Cabinet meeting, and Olmert did not hesitate to publicly criticize the trigger-happy policy. They are no longer pampered princes wandering around the Knesset snack bar, but powerful ministers with voting rights in the government, and in light of their close relations with Shamir, they can be perceived to reflect the state of mind of the prime minister himself.

This is no upheaval or earthquake, but small cracks denoting a new style that is a little bit saner and slightly more realistic, in view of the increasing international recognition of 'Arafat. At least in appearances, the Likud has moved (as evident in Shamir's statements) one step toward the center, leaving the fanatics to its right, for the time being. In official statements, Shamir still speaks of how "the residents of the territories will not achieve anything by violence," but deep inside and in private conversations he has finally acknowledged the other side of the coin: Violence and force alone will not stop the intifadah [uprising].

This was not Shamir's opinion when he was in Washington in March 1988. He believed then that we would be able to ease U.S. pressure if we squashed the intifadah and got it off the news. Now, many of the Likud's finest admit that after approximately 400 dead, 7,000 injured, and tens of thousands arrested, there is no military solution to the uprising. The same sermon is preached to Shamir by the Army commanders. More and more forces, together with a continuing escalation of means, will be needed to preserve what we held for 20 years with a few companies of soldiers. Soldiers in the territories are shooting and weeping today, but who knows what kinds of up-until-now unknown phenomena may occur among them if the situation worsens. An escalation, coupled with additional killings, would spur the United States to exert pressure conducive to a confrontation.

Shamir is expecting an invitation from Bush, while Arens was administered a concentrated dosage of the international mood in the course of his meetings with foreign ministers in Paris and was informed by Mitterrand that he would give an audience to 'Arafat at the Elysee Palace. Both of them understand, in the opinion of their inner coterie, that the situation cannot continue as before, that we must take the initiative and break the status quo. This in itself constitutes a new nuance, especially when the people talking about the need to find a political solution are none other than the leaders of the Likud.

The Likud of today is more ripe for some kind of international umbrella than in the past. Shamir talks about adopting the model of the direct talks between Iraq and Iran, under the auspices of the UN secretary

general, and repeats his offer from 1987 that the two sides be summoned to direct negotiations by the two superpowers. Shamir and Arens are also willing to hold a dialogue with Palestinians who would be elected in free elections that would be held under international supervision. As there would be no need for close scrutiny of those elected in order to guess where their loyalty lies, the above-mentioned ideas constitute a deviation from traditional Likud beliefs.

The substance is more problematic. By means of moves suggesting open-mindedness, the Likud leaders hope to sweep any comprehensive solution of the problem under the carpet. After all, they have not given up their vision of Eretz Yisra'el. What they want to do is use Shultz' trick—which they turned down flat in 1987—which is based on the concept of "a transitional period" with an interim agreement, without mentioning the Camp David accords. This would be a "political solution" that would allow the removal of IDF troops from a large section of the territories, and would fulfill some of the "aspirations of the residents of the territories," in Arens' parlance. Says a senior Likud member: "If an interim agreement proved itself over a few years and alleviated the fears of the Israeli public, who knows? Maybe this would change the Israeli consensus regarding the final status of the West Bank."

There is no breakthrough here exactly, and perhaps we will find no one to talk to based on these ideas. There can be no accord, however, without Israel, and all the signs point to the Likud's remaining in power in coming years. Consequently, even the chance for a partial achievement—however paltry—for the residents of the territories is something, taking the Likud's ideology into account.

The fact that the Likud's top echelon, which sets the party's tone, has slightly sobered up to reality and has begun worrying and thinking is a development that gives the Bush administration, which opposes a Palestinian state, the end of a thread with which to create terms for negotiation. Finally, who would have believed that the wheel would spin this way: Peres issuing economic decrees, Rabin shooting, and the leaders of Herut talking of the need for a peace initiative?

HA'ARETZ: 'No Respect' for Rabin in Knesset
TA1901152689 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
19 Jan 89 p 9

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "Rabin, Suddenly a Weakness"]

[Text] This week Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin learned from his own experience that a politician's prestige gauge is ruthless, elusive, and unstable. Only 10 days ago, every new Knesset member [MK] knew that the state is run by the "Rabin government." Rabin was considered the adhesive binding the major blocs, the only minister whose position depends on no man, but

whose actions determine the survival of Yitzhaq Shamir and Shim'on Peres in their positions. In yesterday's Knesset debate on the no-confidence motions, however, there remained no one maintaining that view. He received no respect even during his answering speech, and was the butt of verbal violence directed at him by several opposition MK's.

A quiet political turnabout has caused the value of Rabin's political stock to plummet. The problem does not lie merely in the fact that a growing majority of the Alignment ministers—including Cabinet members—have been secretly voicing their doubts on the wisdom of his policy in the territories. It also lies in the fact that they do not understand the aspects of his policy: neither the proliferation of shooting and killing, nor his strange eagerness to remove the Jewish monument before the 7 days of mourning were over. Only a short time elapsed before he got the message from ministers such as Yitzhaq Navon, Moshe Shahal, and Ezer Weizman.

These three were not the only ones. Even the Citizens Rights Movement and Center-Shinuy, who usually have no kind words for the settlers, failed to understand the manic drive that urged the defense minister to shatter the monument. As Yosi Sarid put it: It is an odd war. His colleague Oded Zucker thought the minister's activity was prompted by panic. Where is the political wisdom in his comment, his explanation, that no monument had been erected for the 650 IDF soldiers killed in Lebanon? Perhaps it is indeed high time one was erected. What does that have to do with the improvised monument at Samaria's Yaqir Junction? At the Alignment ministers meeting, Navon and Shahal's eyes expressed reservations over the avidity accompanying his battle against the settlers' commemoration site.

Shamir can find little solace in the assessment that even the United States is disappointed with Israel's inability to quell the intifadah [uprising]. The prime minister, though, has stuck with Rabin and with the responsibility for his policies: for the heavy-handed policy, the light-handed policy, and the failure of both.

Like every politician, the prime minister strives to keep away from anything emitting the odor of failure. He knows that 13 months after assuming the task of quelling the unrest, Rabin is being attacked from every direction. For Ari'el Sharon, criticizing Rabin has become a tradition. Even Moshe Arens does not believe that Rabin has a master plan for the liquidation of the intifadah. Likud Minister Ehud Olmert unexpectedly vented this disbelief. He lashed out at the defense minister, saying that although the IDF soldiers should be commended for opening fire when defending their lives, law, and order, it is being done without a concrete policy. The extent of the killing, meanwhile, has been inflated to a worrying rate, he continued. Who said, anyway, that a stone-throwing child should be shot in the back as he is running away? In his worst nightmares, Rabin never imagined he would hit such a low level in his political career.

In yesterday's debate in the Knesset Plenum, the intifadah minister could perceive the erosion of his political assets. The reservations felt for him by the Alignment's top echelons and his own faction are quite obvious, while the Likud's disappointment, both in the hawkish and moderate camps, has deepened. He can no longer impart to the Likud the feeling that he has the power to do the job that no Herut minister dares perform so harshly. Neither does his heavy-handed policy have the support of a decisive majority of the Alignment it did in the past.

All these developments have taken place in the weeks when his activity was less vital for the Cabinet's survival. Peres has withdrawn into himself and stopped urging the Likud to draw nearer the international conference idea and moderate its refusal to conduct negotiations with authentic Palestinians. Forced by circumstances, Shamir and Arens will get there on their own. Under these conditions, the tension between the Alignment and the Likud has abated—with the exception of the parliamentary arena—and Shamir and Peres—beaten and worried, and perhaps disappointed—are now capable of attaining a certain degree of mutual understanding that does not require the moderation of the defense minister. The last role reserved for him by the prime minister is that of a buffer against Sharon. It is a lot, but not enough to justify his elevated position.

What Rabin now needs urgently is an achievement, something to propel him back to his status of 2 weeks ago. He hopes that what was taken away inadvertently can be easily retrieved. But, other than a rapprochement with the PLO and democratic elections in the territories ending—albeit temporarily—the uprising in the territories, what else can happen to deflect the downward route of his public status?

Rabin Plan Criticized as 'Odd Repetition'
TA2401190589 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
22 Jan 89 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "The Right Political Solution"]

[Text] Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has become used to escalating his measures and orders against residents in the occupied land, then within the same context immediately launching what he calls a "new proposal" for a political solution. Yet each time the residents find themselves between the "carrot and the stick," they discover without any effort that Rabin's "carrot" is the stick, and that what he is presenting is just an odd repetition, as was the case in previous years, attempting to create an alternative to the PLO.

No one will accept this for any reason. Why then does Rabin repeat his stale and worn out proposals that he should avoid raising for the 100th time? The Palestinian peace initiative launched by the PLO has received a positive response from the entire world, including Israel's friends and allies. The foremost of Israel's friends, the United States, has begun an official dialogue:

with the PLO and has encouraged—though indirectly—the European countries to further support such a dialogue in order to pave the way for the international conference and a comprehensive and just political solution of the Palestinian problem.

Is it logical for Rabin to ignore all these changes and to repeat his old ideas and proposals, as if the peace process is not moving and understands nothing except these ideas and proposals? If Rabin, who is an Alignment member in the first place, had really wanted a political solution, he should have frankly declared his position regarding the need for creating a dialogue between Israel and the PLO, and should have affirmed through his long experience, in this respect at least, that bypassing the PLO will necessarily meet with failure. This, though, will not continue forever. We believe that Israel's friends and allies, who have "discovered" this reality, will apply pressure on Israel's government, without any ducking or dodging, for the sake of this reality, which is precisely the reality of peace, justice, and righteousness.

Rabin's Plan 'Odd, Confused'

TA2401180889 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
21 Jan 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Rabin's Plan: The Weirdest Thing Ever Proposed to the Palestinians"]

[Text] Yesterday Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin presented his amazing "personal" plan for a settlement. This plan consists of halting the uprising for a period of between 3 and 6 months, after which the residents of the occupied territories will be allowed to choose their representatives to enter into negotiations with Israel to resolve the Palestinian problem. Then "autonomy" will be applied in a transitional phase, followed by a confederation between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with Jordan or Israel! He stipulated that the settlements would remain and would be protected by the Israeli Army.

A Palestinian will immediately be amazed by this odd and confused plan. What had been proposed to the Palestinians by Israel during the past 21 years was more "generous" than this plan. Even the rejected Camp David accords gave the Palestinians more freedom and set no preconditions for achieving a settlement. The Palestinian resident who hears this plan for the first time tends to believe that it comes from Ari'el Sharon or Ge'ula Kohen. The Palestinian people are trying to

achieve their hopes for independence and are endeavoring to build their entity over their land in order to live in their state alongside the State of Israel. This is the latest proposal of the Palestinians.

In general, Rabin's plan lacks any common sense. If it had been proposed by someone living in Japan or Brazil, he would not have been blamed because he is far from the picture. That this plan was proposed by an Israeli commander, who has lived with the problem since his early youth, who has fought Israel's wars from beginning to end, and who in the depth of his heart knows the Palestinian principles and what is required for achieving peace, is the last thing one can imagine. After enumerating the events of this year in the occupied territories, we ask: Was Rabin not with us during this period filled with developments and events in which the temperature in the region rose to the boiling point?

Did he neither hear nor see the Palestinian surprises, such as the recognition of Israel, acceptance of Security Council Resolution 242, renunciation of terrorism, birth of the Palestinian state, the beginning of Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, and European support for the Palestinian people? It is strange that Rabin, who is the most senior official responsible for the occupied territories, would put forward such a plan. He is telling the Palestinians that you have to choose an "alternative leadership" from within the occupied territories. By this means he wants to turn back the clock. Moreover, he must be aware that those who preceded him at the Ministry of Defense since 1967, from Dayan to Sharon, failed in these attempts.

Perhaps the best answer to Rabin's plan was the confrontation between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and the soldiers in Nabulus. They called on him to put forward a peace initiative in order to emerge from the current crisis that is threatening the morals and values of Israeli society. If Rabin were to review what these officers and soldiers said, he would realize that the road to peace in the region cannot be reached except by stopping the Israeli practices and entering into negotiations with the Palestinians in the framework of an international peace conference.

What Rabin is calling for is the building of a well-fortified trench to guard the international isolation that the leadership has imposed on the Israeli people by rejecting any chance for political movement. Apparently Rabin is forgetting that the priority for all Palestinians, irrespective of their political tendencies, is to end the occupation, return the land to its owners, and achieve their legitimate rights.

King, Delegation Leave for Saudi Arabia 24 Jan
JN2401102389 Amman Domestic Service in English
1000 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn left Amman at noon today for Saudi Arabia on a working visit. His majesty will hold talks with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia on issues of concern to the Arab nation in the framework of continued consultations and coordination between the two Arab leaders. His majesty the king was seen off at the airport by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn and top officials as well as the Saudi Arabian charge d'affaires in Amman. Earlier, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah took the constitutional oath before his majesty the king as regent during his majesty's absence abroad.

His majesty is accompanied by the Prime Minister Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i, the Chief of the Royal Court Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, his majesty's Special Adviser 'Amir Khammash, and Mr Marwan al-Qasim, the foreign minister.

Talks To Focus on Summit
JN2401183589 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1700 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Today's Dhahran talks between Jordan's King Husayn and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz are within the framework of continual consultations and coordination between the two Arab leaders on important Arab issues. This was disclosed by an official Jordanian source. Our radio has learned from a well-informed source that the Dhahran talks will concentrate on the chances of holding the ordinary Arab summit, scheduled to be held in Riyadh.

Amman believes that the present Arab atmosphere of detente requires the convocation of an ordinary Arab summit that would be able to discuss a series of issues, such as Egypt's return to the Arab League after a 10-year absence. This return is now more opportune than ever before, given the dropping of the Syrian veto last week when Syria agreed to Egypt's return to the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development. In this regard, the Jordanian source said that King Husayn will tomorrow leave Dhahran for Cairo for a meeting with President Husni Mubarak before returning to Amman.

Amman also supports the PLO request for convening an Arab summit to adopt the Palestinian political initiative that 'Arafat launched in Geneva in mid-December. Moreover, Jordan believes that it is time the Arab League Charter is amended through an ordinary summit because the necessity for having unanimous rather than majority decisions paralyzes joint Arab action. In case an ordinary Arab summit is not possible, an emergency

Arab summit could be held which will be devoted to Egypt's return to the Arab League and which will be followed by an ordinary Arab summit in Riyadh with an expanded agenda.

U.S. Ambassador Stresses 'Direct Negotiations'
JN2501133689 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
25 Jan 89 pp 1,12

[By Fayruz Imbaydin]

[Text] Amman—The U.S. Ambassador in Amman Mr Roscoe Suddarth has said: "Direct negotiations between the parties concerned in Palestine and Israel is the only way to a just solution that achieves both the legitimate demands of the Palestinians and Israel's security." Speaking at a meeting organized by the American University of Beirut [AUB] Alumni Club yesterday, the ambassador affirmed that the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territory, the recent PNC resolutions, and the change they have created in world public opinion are bound to have a positive effect in support of the Palestinian cause before the new U.S. Administration under George Bush.

The ambassador referred to President Bush's inauguration speech in which he said the United States will fully honor its pledges and exert every effort to achieve peace through an international conference, the settlement of differences with the USSR, and the limitation of nuclear and chemical weapons. He said the United States presently faces many challenges whose handling requires an enlightened responsive policy. There is the deficit in the general state budget, the widespread problem of narcotics in the American society, and other domestic issues, he said.

The ambassador added: It is difficult to say now what policy President Bush would follow concerning the Middle East issue, "but there is no doubt that it will be a continuation of the present U.S. policy, at least in the short term."

The ambassador said U.S. public opinion "is determined to change the current bloody situation between the Palestinians and Israel and all means of pressure should be used on Israel to make it agree to convening an international conference as soon as possible." He said: "Jordan has played a distinguished role in the interest of the Palestine question. It should continue this line and play its full role in any agreements related to this question."

King Husayn Orders Compensation for Crop Damage
JN2401092589 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
24 Jan 89 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] Amman (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn Monday issued directives to the Ministry of Agriculture to compensate farmers whose crops were severely

affected by the recent wave of frost. The directives were issued during a visit the King paid to the Ministry of Agriculture, accompanied by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir.

King Husayn said due attention should be given to training of ministry staff with a view to raising their standards and improving their performance. Ministry employees should attend refresher and in-depth courses in different specialisations to acquaint themselves with up-to-date technology and applications, the king said. He added that proper attention should be given by the ministry to the problem of disintegration and misuse of land, and emphasized the need for the ministry to improve the strains of wheat produced in Jordan in the dry lands and to help farmers make better use of agricultural land. The king said comprehensive land surveys and land reclamation should be carried out.

The king said the ministry should help maintain Jordan's credibility in Arab and foreign markets and should help rid the Jordan Valley and Al-Aqabah regions of insects and harmful pests. "We want Jordan to assume an advanced status in the field of agriculture and benefit from Arab, regional and international expertise and experiments in this regard," King Husayn said. [passage omitted]

Cultural Exchange Agreement Signed with PRC
JN1901203789 Amman Television Service in English
2000 GMT 19 Jan 89

[Text] Jordan and China today signed an executive program for the implementation of a bilateral agreement. The program, which was signed by the Ministry of Planning secretary general and China's ambassador to Jordan, covers cooperation in education, information, sports, social development, and health fields. The program calls on both sides to encourage educational and scientific institutions in Jordan and China to establish relations and promote cultural cooperation.

AL-DUSTUR Hopes for 'Fair' Bush Policy
JN2001095489 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
20 Jan 89 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "The Bush Administration and the Urgent Need for Peace"]

[Text] Amid a favorable international climate and broad hopes that further detente will be achieved between East and West and that regional tensions and conflicts will be defused, George Bush, the 41st president of the United States, assumes power at the White House, starting a new U.S. era, responding to the weight of the United States and its importance as a superpower of worldwide influence. Hence, we look forward to President George Bush's era with extreme optimism about the White House newcomer. His acquired experiences have qualified him to play a direct role in U.S. global policies, especially

since he armed himself in advance with a team of aides enjoying political experience and an open mind toward the spirit of the age and its many issues.

Undoubtedly, the people of the Middle East are among the most eager in the world to see the new U.S. President's policies and stands on the obstinate historical crisis in this sensitive area of the world. This is especially so since the United States has the most important keys to a solution and has enough interests and relationships to urge it to move toward peace.

Perhaps the rich experiences acquired by President Bush while he held extremely important positions in his country will help the new administration formulate a more genuine view of developments in the Middle East crisis and draw up fair U.S. policies. This will open the door before the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace responding to the interests of all parties to the crisis.

The current killings, torture, and open state terrorism in the occupied territories are substantial proof of this area's extreme need for a more fair U.S. stand and more balanced U.S. policies, which will hopefully be translated into action by the Bush administration, in order to help this area's peoples overcome the adamant impasse, by making Israel listen and respond to the peace appeal.

We wish success to President Bush, who assumes power as the leader of a superpower and a great nation, in assuming his heavy charge and overcoming all possible difficulties. We will continue to watch for the new administration's stands and aides' statements, hoping to find an effective U.S. policy which helps restore peace to the area and return rights to their owners, without injustice or bias, and without hesitation or retreat.

'Endless' U.S. Conditions for PLO Viewed
JN2401102089 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
24 Jan 89 p 14

["An Issue and Opinion" column by Salamah 'Ukur: "Why Are These U.S. Conditions on the PLO?"]

[Text] It seems that the list of U.S. conditions for PLO participation in the supposed peace negotiations is endless. If we go back a little and recall some of the U.S. stands on the PLO, we find that successive U.S. Administrations have set hundreds of conditions for recognizing the PLO, then set hundreds of conditions for starting a dialogue with it. The administration is now setting conditions for continuing this dialogue.

We will also find that the Reagan administration was forced to pay attention to the the Middle East issue following the eruption of the glorious uprising in the occupied territories. It was motivated by Israel to work to end the uprising. The U.S. move was active in the beginning in hopes of helping and supporting Israel in the Arab arena, ending the uprising, and saving Israel

from its difficult deadlock. Assuming this task, Shultz found the Arabs, and Jordan in particular, fully prepared to contain that U.S. move and determined to support the uprising and exploit it politically.

Indeed, the Palestinians and the Arabs did well in exploiting the uprising politically and managed to rally European and world support for it. To thwart Tel Aviv's and Washington's intentions and to place before them the new facts, Jordan disengaged its legal and administrative relations with the West Bank, thus toppling the Jordanian option, on the basis of which the U.S. move began, and placing Tel Aviv and Washington face to face with the PLO—that is, face to face with a hard option. In view of Israel's inability to end the uprising and coming under European and international pressure, the U.S. Administration was forced to bow to the strong onslaught and extend bridges to the PLO. Following the Palestinian peace initiative, which received worldwide support, Israel was forced to reply with many peace initiatives entailing noticeable retreat in its stand. However, Washington is now preparing to play the same role of repulsing all political and military offensives against Israel and containing the grave dangers and effects of its military and political defeats.

Hence we should express fear and warn against the gravity of the new U.S. role, which the new Bush administration began by setting new conditions for allowing the PLO to participate in any forthcoming peace negotiations. Here we ask the United States: Why does it set all these conditions on the PLO to participate in negotiations but not one condition for Israel in return for saving it from the uprising and collapse?

SAWT AL-SHA'B Calls Rabin Ideas "Nothing New"
JN2101102689 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
21 Jan 89 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "The Region Needs No New Plans"]

[Text] The ideas of Israeli War Minister Yitzhak Rabin are nothing new. They attempt to bypass the PLO, the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The ideas, a summary of the thoughts of the two parties forming the coalition government, try to skirt the facts and developments produced by the uprising of the Palestinian people, which has been confronting the occupation's oppressive policies for over 13 months, demanding an end to this occupation and a recognition of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people.

The Middle East region, which has long suffered from constant Israeli aggression and its destructive ramifications that threaten the continued volatile situation, cannot see peace and calm except through a full and comprehensive settlement through an international peace conference at the invitation of the United Nations and with the participation of the five Security Council permanent member states together with all parties to the conflict, including the PLO, on an equal footing. This is the solution accepted by the world as the only way for peace. Israel is alone in rejecting this internationally-approved plan.

The Arab-Israeli conflict can be solved only through an international peace conference based on the acceptance of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which the PLO has accepted, thus meeting the requirements of comprehensive peace. This conflict needs neither new initiatives nor ideas other than those agreed upon and supported by the rest of the world. The occupied West Bank and Gaza, which expressed their rejection of occupation by staging the valiant popular uprising—which Rabin's oppressive forces and his iron fist policy have failed and will fail to end—accept nothing but the termination of occupation, the achievement of the right to self-determination, and the establishment of the Palestinian state, which was supported and recognized by most world countries.

The masses of the occupied territories heard about what Rabin calls a plan, and his call for elections, truce, autonomy, and a federation affiliated with Israel. These masses know how to reject and foil these ideas and plans. What annoys Rabin and his government is the Palestinian peace onslaught, which began under the UN umbrella and blessing and gained wide-scale world support. This onslaught places the United Nations in a pre-eminent position and calls for its playing a basic role in the peace process.

If Rabin is wagering on the policy of iron fist and the escalation of oppression and terrorism in the occupied territories, then he brought nothing new. The Palestinian Arab people under the occupation have experienced all forms and means of Israeli terrorism, practiced by the Israeli war minister and other Israeli rulers. Wagering on violence, oppression, and terrorism will neither bring peace closer nor prevent the Palestinian people from attaining their legitimate national rights, especially their right to establish their independent state on their national soil.

Amal, Hizballah Agree To Stop Fighting
LD2501072689 Tehran IRNA in English
0720 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] Damascus, Jan. 25, IRNA—Amal and Hizballah, two rival Shi'ite groups in Lebanon today signed an agreement to end their bloody clashes over the past weeks.

The accord was signed following ceaseless mediation efforts by a delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran headed by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. Amal and Hizballah signed the agreement after 62 hours of talks, including 15 hours of tense negotiations between foreign ministers of Iran and Syria and delegations from the two rival groups.

Diplomatic sources here said leaders of Amal and Hizballah did not meet face to face during the negotiations.

A statement issued at 07:00 GMT on the accord said a ceasefire will go into effect immediately. It added that the two sides will also stop propaganda attacks against each other and talks will continue until a comprehensive compromise is reached.

The two sides, according to the final agreement, will work to remove the causes behind their differences and will employ their capabilities to liberate occupied Lebanese lands from Israeli domination.

At least 142 people from both sides were killed in the fighting which started early this month.

The Iranian foreign minister is due back home today.

More on Cease-Fire

NC2501080789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0745 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] The meetings held between Amal and Hizballah officials overnight in Damascus have ended. A brief statement was issued declaring an immediate cease-fire and the termination of the propaganda campaign between the two sides. The statement added that talks will continue in order to reach a comprehensive reconciliation agreement organizing Amal-Hizballah relations.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Damascus for Tehran this morning. He is expected to return to the Syrian capital tomorrow to resume the talks on reaching a reconciliation between Amal and Hizballah, according to a responsible Syrian official.

An Amal information official in the South, Milhim Qansuh, has stated that there will be no return to the situation prevailing before 1982 and called for a practical stand regarding the inter-Shi'ite fighting. He added: What is required is a stand that dots the i's and crosses the t's and that does not equate the victims and the culprit.

Hizballah Accuses Amal of Violating Cease-Fire
NC2501114089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1125 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] A Hizballah source stated a short while ago that the security situation exploded along the Iqlim al-Tuffah combat lines at 1230 today. The source accused the Amal Movement of violently shelling the towns of Jba', 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Al-Luwayzah, and Jabal Safi. Rocket launchers and long-range artillery are being used in the bombardment.

The Hizballah source concluded his statement by saying that this shelling constitutes a breach of the cease-fire agreement announced in Damascus this morning.

Amal Official Berates Iran, Hizballah on Hostages
NC2201194989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1915 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] 'Abd al-Majid Salih, an Amal official in Tyre, has accused the hard-line wing in Tehran led by Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi of being the cause of the catastrophes and tragedies that have befallen the Shi'ite community in Lebanon.

Salih accused Hizballah and Iran of distorting the image of the Shi'ite community. Inquiring what the hostage issue has achieved for Iran and the Shi'ites, Salih said: It has achieved some material gains, but meanwhile the Shi'ites have lost the world's respect for their resistance of the Israeli occupation.

Libyan Envoy on Red Cross, Troop Presence
NC2501161789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] 'Ashur al-Furtas, head of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau, has expressed his country's support for the efforts of the seven-member Arab committee to resolve the Lebanese crisis.

After meeting today with Bishop Ilyas 'Awdah, Al-Furtas answered a question, stating that the armed Libyan elements in Lebanon are symbolic. He was also asked the following:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Ambassador, can you discuss the Libyan stand on the efforts of the seven-member Arab Committee on Lebanon?

[Al-Furtas] The Arab Libyan Jamahiryah, as it has previously [words indistinct], strongly and firmly supports and backs every Arab effort to return Lebanon to a state of normalcy and to underline that country's independence and the unity of its people, territories, and institutions.

[Correspondent] Are there any particular efforts [words indistinct]?

[Al-Furtas] The seven-member committee is currently in charge of these endeavors. It enjoys the backing of all Arab countries.

[Correspondent] Does Libya support the return of the International Red Cross to the South of Lebanon. Has a Red Cross envoy visited Libya for that purpose?

[Al-Furtas] Yes, a Red Cross envoy visited the Jamahiriyyah and held contacts at the highest levels there. The Jamahiriyyah had stressed to him its full support for the Red Cross efforts and for its noble mission everywhere, particularly in Lebanon. I had the opportunity to meet with the Red Cross envoy and stressed to him the Jamahiriyyah's full support and its unlimited backing for that organization's efforts and mission in Lebanon.

[Correspondent] Are you still maintaining Libyan Armed Forces on Lebanese territories?

[Al-Furtas] I previously have been asked this question and, at that time, said that, if there is such a presence, it is merely symbolic.

[Correspondent] Is there an official (?government) approval of this?

[Al-Furtas] As I have said, there is only a symbolic presence.

[Correspondent] Does the authority approve of this presence?

[Al-Furtas] (?I believe so.)

[Correspondent] Why did the Red Cross ask for guarantees from Libya in particular?

[Al-Furtas] The Red Cross has not only asked Libya [words indistinct], but also has contacted all the Arab countries to ask them to cooperate with it so that it can carry out its mission in Lebanon. [end recording]

Al-Huss on Arab Committee Meeting in Tunis
NC2201105089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has asserted that the discussions in Tunis will deal with clarifying all points the seven-member Arab committee will raise. He said he will defend the memorandum he submitted to the Arab League, emphasizing that present conditions do not permit the submission to anything less than this memorandum.

Dr al-Huss has been quoted as saying that he will not go to Tunis if the object is to meet with General Michel 'Awn. He added: The disagreement is among the Lebanese and not between two people. The matter is not so simple. A meeting would mean negotiations between two governments and their mutual recognition. This is a serious matter which would prolong the crisis and consolidate partition.

Al-Huss Interviewed on Ending Political Crisis
PM2401112289 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
20 Jan 89 pp 16-17

[Unattributed interview with Prime Minister Salim al-Huss; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] AL-HAWADITH: In the memorandum you submitted to the recent Arab foreign ministers meeting you defined the topics of political reform in Lebanon and said that their achievement would lead to the election of the president of the republic and the formation of a unified government. Who can achieve reform in the present situation in Lebanon, and how?

Al-Huss: If we agree on the essence, there will be no problem with the method. There is more than one way to reach the desired result, that is, an agreement on the principles and terms that would constitute a solution to the constitutional dilemma and a solution to the crisis predicament. This should be the first issue in political talks, accompanied by an initiative aimed at extricating Lebanon from its crisis. When we say political talks, we mean not only the dialogue that should be conducted to secure the reform and accord formulas needed to resolve the crisis, but an agreement on ways to achieve such formulas, which should then be used to determine how much reform the situation allows.

That political dialogue must be initiated. If the channels of direct contacts between the Lebanese groups are, for one reason or another, difficult to maintain these days, indirect contacts must be maintained. In the past Arab and international forces have played a notable role in this regard. I am among those who believe that accord among the Lebanese necessarily requires positive roles from outside. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: After the "Bikfayya meetings" and the formation of the "the national unity government" a number of issue were agreed upon internally with foreign blessing, but implementation did not take place. As a result, a solution is still difficult to achieve.

Al-Huss: True, there was huge disappointment with the failure of the "national unity government" formed in 1984 under late Prime Minister Rashid Karami to implement what it had promised in its ministerial statement. The statement reflected the agreement reached between those representing the principal parties in the ongoing conflict in Lebanon on the methods required to tackle the basic aspects of the crisis. Had that program been implemented, I believe Lebanon would have made long strides toward extricating itself from the crisis. Regrettably the desired result was not achieved because of disputes that erupted among government members over the interpretation of the program statement.

If we are to learn any lessons from that experience, the first should be that agreements must be drafted in a binding language and terms that leave no room for dispute and discussion. The second lesson is that no solution to the crisis will be achieved if the chief of state

was a party to the conflict—which was the case during former President Amin al-Jumayyil's era. So the need to choose the next president carefully must be stressed, because he must be impartial. Furthermore, the chief of state must be above the conflict in order to play his role and lead the dialogue in an objective manner to ensure a solution for the country.

AL-HAWADITH: The continuation of the present situation must make it difficult to achieve a solution. Do you expect Lebanon to overcome this situation in the near future in view of current Arab moves?

Al-Huss: We would not be exaggerating if we were to describe the present stage as extraordinary, in every sense of the word. Lebanon has never experienced anything like it in the past. No other country in the world has experienced anything like it. Before the date set for the constitutional elections, that is, 23 September, we tried many times to avoid this situation. We launched an extensive political and diplomatic campaign in order to hold the presidential elections as scheduled in order to block the way to a so-called "transitional government," because we knew the dangers of having such a government and their inevitable negative impact on the unity of the institutions. [passage omitted]

We now have two possibilities: Either hold the presidential elections soon, in which case we must be patient and steadfast and do our best to limit the losses and negative aspects of the situation; or face the continuation of the constitutional crisis for an indefinite period of time, in which case we must think of ways to preserve the country's unity and existence until conditions are ripe for extricating Lebanon from its crisis. [passage omitted]

Al-Huss Cables George Bush on Mideast Peace
NC2101210189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] In a cable he sent to U.S. President George Bush, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss expressed hope that the United States will contribute to the enhancement of world peace and to the achievement of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. He also expressed hope that the United States will help Lebanon overcome its ordeal and liberate its territory from Israeli occupation.

Al-Huss Opposes New Recruitment for Army
NC2401070789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0615 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Salim al-Huss has said that he opposes any new enlistment in the Army for the time being. Such a decision, he added, should be made by a unified national government and at a time when there is a unified army command.

Army Position in Rum Establishes Communication
NC2301093889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0915 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] The Lebanese Army position in Rum, which came under a rocket and machinegun attack at dawn today, has reestablished radio communication between the South, western Al-Biq'a, and the Defense Ministry.

It has been learned that the three soldiers who were injured during the attack have returned to their posts after receiving treatment for their injuries, which were slight.

South Lebanese Army Expels 37 From Security Zone
NC2501083189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0815 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] The South Lebanese Army this morning expelled 37 persons from the security belt zone after accusing them of aiding hostile armed groups. The expulsion took place at the Zummarayya Gate, east of the security zone.

Lahd Militia Open Fire on UNIFIL Spokesman
NC2501164189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1634 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] UNIFIL Spokesman Timor Goksel was shot at by the agent Lahd militia on Al-Hamra Bridge today as he was returning from Tyre to his headquarters in Al-Naqrurah. A Lahd militiaman opened fire at Goksel's vehicle, and prevented it from passing. Goksel, who was unharmed, was not permitted to pass for 3 hours.

'Tripoli Martyrs' Claim Kidnapping of 3 Syrians
NC2301065289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In a telephone conversation with Radio Free Lebanon, the Tripoli Martyrs Battalion has claimed responsibility for kidnapping three members of the Syrian occupation forces, including 1st Lieutenant Samir al-'Ali.

A caller speaking on behalf of the battalion stated that the abduction was carried out 2 days ago, while the three elements were walking in the jeweler's market in Tripoli. He added that the operation was in retaliation for the kidnapping of Qasim Jabir, an official of the Islamic Unification Movement, by the Syrian occupation forces. Jabir was kidnapped on his way to the Abu Samrah area.

The caller threatened that the battalion will execute the three Syrians tomorrow morning, Tuesday, if Jabir is not released. [passage omitted]

More on Kidnapping

NC2401204289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1945 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] The Tripoli Martyrs Battalion has claimed full responsibility for the execution of Syrian occupation forces Lieutenant Samir al-'Ali and Privates Amir al-'Abd and Kamal Mir'i. The three were kidnapped in the jeweler's market in Tripoli on 21 January.

A spokesman for the battalion said that the executions are in reprisal for the Syrian forces' refusal to free Qasim Muhammad Jabir, an official of the Islamic Unification Movement. The battalion has warned the Syrians that it will continue kidnapping operations until Jabir is set free. The spokesman added that the execution took place in one of Tripoli's groves and that the bodies were thrown near 'Abd al-Hamid Karami's statue in Al-Nur Square.

'9 February' Group Claims Attack Against Syrians

NC2401183989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1645 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Expressing its rejection of the presence of the Syrian occupation army, the Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for detonating an explosive device at a Syrian checkpoint in the Burj abu Haydar area in West Beirut at 1710 today. According to the organization's claim, the explosion caused several Syrian casualties.

The Syrians surrounded the area after the incident and started firing their weapons indiscriminately.

Irish Soldier Wounded During Israeli Shelling

NC2401160089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] According to reports from the South, an Irish UNIFIL soldier was wounded as a result of the shelling of Al-Haddathah township by the Israeli occupation forces and their agents at 1500 this afternoon.

In another development, the resistance men detonated an explosive charge under an Army personnel carrier belonging to agent Lahd's militia on Al-Qantarah Road. One passenger was killed and another wounded. The agent militia consequently raked the nearby woods.

PFLP Claims Attack Against Israeli Patrol

NC2401211889 Paris AFP in English
2103 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Beirut, Jan 24 (AFP)—The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine announced that it killed members of an Israeli patrol unit in southern Lebanon on Tuesday.

In a communique, the PFLP led by George Habash said its commandos blew up the patrol with a remote-controlled charge at Hasbayya in the Israeli-imposed "security zone".

A military vehicle was destroyed and all its occupants were killed, it said.

Meanwhile the Sh.'ite Amal Movement claimed responsibility for an explosives attack the same day near Al-Qantarah in the "security zone" which killed two and wounded three members of the pro-Israeli South Lebanese Army.

More on Attack

NC2501072889 Beirut Voice of National Resistance
in Arabic 0600 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] The Lebanese resistance battalions, Amal, have issued the following statement:

The Martyr Nidal al-'Amili unit of the Imam al-Mahdi company of the Lebanese resistance battalions, Amal, planted an explosive device on a road frequently used by Zionist vehicles near Al-Qantarah at 1030 yesterday. As an Israeli motorized patrol passed, the strugglers detonated the explosive device under an M-113 vehicle, destroying it and killing or wounding its 6 occupants.

Immediately afterward, the occupation forces searched the area and shelled the town of Qabrikhah with heavy artillery, hitting a house belonging to citizen Husayn 'Ali 'Abdallah Hijazi.

The agents' radio admitted the operation, saying that two agents were killed and three others were wounded.

Israeli Helicopters Overfly South 25 Jan

NC2501081089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0745 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] Israeli helicopters overflew some southern areas adjacent to the eastern and central sectors this morning. An Israeli MK reconnaissance plane also overflew Sidon and the Palestinian camps for some time.

Planes Break Sound Barrier

NC2501112889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier over Beirut while flying on reconnaissance sorties at 1235 today.

25 January 1989

Israeli Forces Conduct 'Large-Scale' Maneuvers

NC2501165989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic

1630 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] According to reports from the occupied border strip, the Israeli occupation forces conducted large-scale maneuvers in areas extending from Marj 'Uyun to Ra's al-Naqurah last night. Helicopters and hundreds of troops took part in the 4-hour exercise.

UNIFIL Spokesman Timor Goksel has stated that, during the maneuvers, two shells landed on the UNIFIL Headquarters in Al-Naqurah. One of the shells fell a few meters

from the house of the UNIFIL commander, and the other landed on a post manned by French and Italian soldiers. Goksel, however, made no mention of casualties.

Israel Hands New Weapons Over to Lahd Militias

NC2501132289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic

1130 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] According to security reports, Israeli forces handed new weapons over to the agent militias over the past 24 hours, including tanks, vehicles, and cannons. The weapons were transported to areas near Marj 'Uyun, Rshaf, and Bra'shit.

Talas Cited on Mosad Involvement in Pan Am Crash
JN2401163689 Manama WAKH in English 1605 GMT
24 Jan 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan 24 (GNA)—Syria's Defence Minister Mustafa Talas said in remarks published today the U.S. and Britain were aware Israel's secret service Mosad bombed a Pan Am airliner over Scotland last month.

Talas told UAE's AL-ITTIHAD newspaper his information he disclosed last week in the Kuwaiti daily AL-QABAS were available to the U.S. and Britain.

"The information I have are available to the U.S. and British intelligence but they have agreed not to embarrass Israel before the world," he told the Abu Dhabi daily in Damascus.

AL-QABAS quoted Talas on Saturday as saying Mosad agents offered an American soldier stationed in West Germany 300,000 dollars to smuggle a suitcase that supposedly carried diamonds into the U.S.

The plane crashed shortly after it took off on December 21 from London airport on a flight from Frankfurt to New York with a loss of 270 lives. British investigators have determined a bomb caused the accident.

Talas, asked by AL-ITTIHAD whether Syria would give evidence to the U.S. on Mosad's role, said: "We are not a party concerned with the crash because those killed were Americans not Syrians... all information related to the airliner have become known internationally."

Further on Meetings on Amal-Hizballah Dispute

Al-Asad, Velayati, Al-Shar' Meet
JN2401214289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
2115 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his accompanying delegation at 1245 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus. Dr Velayati conveyed to the president a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i.

The talks dealt with the situation in the region and issues concerning the Syrian and Iranian sides. The president was also briefed on the ongoing consultations in Damascus to tackle some negative developments in the Lebanese arena.

This afternoon, a tripartite meeting was held at the Foreign Ministry. Al-Shar', Velayati, and Amal leader Nabih Birri attended. This evening, another tripartite meeting was held. Al-Shar', Velayati, and a Hizballah leadership delegation attended. The talks at the two meetings dealt with the overall topics discussed in yesterday's meetings.

Musawi Expects 'Good News'
JN2401164189 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1600 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Following the meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attending, it was announced that President Hafiz al-Asad was briefed on the ongoing contacts in Damascus to deal with certain negative developments in the Lebanese arena. Later, another meeting was held at the Iranian Embassy attended by Velayati and the Hizballah and Amal delegations.

Following the meeting, a Hizballah official, Mr Husayn Musawi, said: I can tell the Muslims in general, and the Lebanese Muslims, particularly the Shi'ites, that they will hear good news later tonight and that trilateral and quadrilateral meetings will be held at the Syrian Foreign Ministry building. These meetings will be concluded by proclaiming a political agreement between Amal and Hizballah.

Musawi added that Velayati will stay in Damascus to finalize the agreement, which stipulates a cease-fire, a halt in media campaigns, and lifting the siege on areas on both sides. Musawi said that the moment the two delegations meet at the Syrian Foreign Ministry, a cease-fire will be announced.

A meeting is currently being held between ministers Al-Shar' and Velayati, with the Iranian delegation members and Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an attending.

'Initial Agreement' Reached
JN2501073189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0715 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] At the conclusion of the meetings held at the Foreign Ministry from 23-25 January 1989 under the aegis of Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran, an initial agreement was reached to end the fratricidal fighting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Lebanon. The initial agreement includes:

1. A comprehensive cease-fire to begin immediately following the announcement of this statement;
2. Ending the news media campaigns exchanged by the two sides;
3. Following up the talks in order to reach a comprehensive reconciliation agreement that regulates relations between the Amal Movement and Hizballah and deals with the reasons that led to the explosion and tension, in the interest of the unity of Lebanon and its liberation from the Israeli occupation.

Velayati Departs 25 Jan

JN2501133889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Damascus this morning following a 3-day visit. He was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Diay'ullah al-Fattal, assistant foreign minister; chiefs of the Asia and Protocol Departments at the Foreign Ministry; and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus.

Somali Socialist Party Official Arrives 21 Jan

JN2101190589 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Abdelkadir Mohamed Haji, assistant secretary general of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party, and a delegation arrived in Damascus this evening.

On hand to greet him at Damascus International Airport were Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; comrades of the National Command; and the Somali ambassador in Damascus.

Mohamed Haji will meet with the leadership in Syria on bilateral relations and concerns of mutual interest to the two sisterly countries.

Delivers Message to Al-Asad

JN2301071089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
2115 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received a written message to President Hafiz al-Asad from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre, during his meeting today with brother Abdelkadir Mohamed Haji, assistant secretary general of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party.

The talks focused on relations between the two parties and sisterly countries and ways to promote them in the interest of the Arab nation and the objectives of its struggle. The talks also dealt with the developments in the Arab arena and the importance of the effective Arab solidarity that will achieve the unity of the Arab stand and mobilize the efforts to confront the Zionist enemy and the schemes of the Arab nation's enemies.

Comrade al-Ahmar affirmed Syria's principled stand under the leadership of struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad on the central Arab cause—the Palestine question—and the achievement of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil as a basis for the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region through a UN-sponsored international conference.

Brother Mohamed Haji praised Syria's pan-Arab stand that constitutes a basic pillar in the Arab struggle against the Zionist enemy. He said: Syria's role is major in all fields. He expressed appreciation for the developments and success achieved in Syria under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad.

Departs 25 Jan

JN2501140089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] Damascus—Abdelkadir Mohamed Haji, assistant secretary general of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party, and the accompanying delegation today left Damascus at the conclusion of a 4-day visit to Syria.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP]; a number of party comrades; and the Somali ambassador in Damascus.

During his visit to Syria, Mohamed Haji held talks with the leadership in Syria. The talks dealt with aspects of relations between the two fraternal countries and parties and issues of mutual interest.

Afghanistan

Armed Forces Kill 377 Rebels on Salang Highway
LD2401194389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 24 Jan 89

["Statement by the Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces High Command"]

[Text] As you know, over the past 18 months contacts and negotiations by both the Afghan and Soviet authorities have taken place with Ahmad Shah Mas'ud to end the war. As part of these contacts, the Afghan Armed Forces issued a statement on 6 Jadi 1367 [27 December 1988] asking Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and his commanders to begin negotiations, while taking into account statements by responsible Afghan officials. These negotiations were proposed in order to resolve differences on issues, including their participation in power at both the local and national levels.

Since that time, the Afghan authorities have made efforts through various channels to peacefully prevent the blocking of the Salang highway and attacks on convoys carrying food and other goods to Kabul and other parts of the country. Ahmad Shah Mas'ud was asked to negotiate and was asked not to interfere with the security of the Salang Highway by Afghan military units and detachments. However, he delayed entering negotiations and continued his subversive activities aimed at disrupting order and security.

In line with the national reconciliation policy and the principle of negotiations with the opposition to prevent war and bloodshed, the Afghan authorities once again informed him that the state is ready to acknowledge that the security of the Salang Highway will be maintained by his armed groups. Despite this realistic and flexible position by the Republic of Afghanistan, these armed groups began robbing and preying on supply convoys without replying to the Afghan proposal. Since the beginning of this year [year beginning 22 March 1988], 89 vehicles were set on fire, a consignment of 517 government and private vehicles was seized, and some passengers and drivers were martyred. With these acts, they have taken bread and other needed items from our people, in contravention of Islamic and state laws. As a result, they have forced defenseless citizens—women, children, and orphans—to confront economic hardship in the harsh cold weather of winter.

In spite of the Republic of Afghanistan's warnings, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and his armed groups have continued their combat operations and robbery by stockpiling weapons and setting up arms depots along the Salang Highway. The Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces High Command considers it its duty to defend peace and public order by all means possible and to keep the Salang Highway open in order to alleviate our compatriots'

urgent, vital needs. Therefore, the Afghan Armed Forces have been compelled to protect the Salang Highway from the evil subversive activities and theft by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's armed groups.

In a combat operation carried out by the Armed Forces today, 377 extremists—including a number of their commanders—were crushed along the Salang Highway. Three weapons depots, 4 vehicles, and 12 fortified positions were destroyed.

The Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces High Command again appeals to the extremists along the Salang Highway to end their activities that block the highway and cause problems for their fellow countrymen. If they do not, the responsibility for continuing their subversive activities and refraining from talks to peacefully solve problems will rest with them.

Mojadeddi Cited on Mujahidin Split, Soviet Talks
LD2501073189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0433 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 24, BAKHTAR—Sebghatullah Mojadeddi, chairman of the seven alliance coalition in an interview with the Radio Free Afghanistan confessed that the Peshawar seven alliance group and the eight alliance group stationed in Iran failed to solve their differences over the allocation of chairs in the provisional council of the opposition.

"In relation to the approval or rejection of the government of Ahmad Shah supported by the seven alliance said that in his view Ahmad Shah who is a Muslim is not supported by any body even members of their organisation headed by ['Abdul Rasul] Sayyaf. [sentence, quote marks as received]

Condemning members of other groupings Mojadeddi said that (?through) their attacks in Bamian and Konarha provinces and in Gardeyz City committed murder, arson and plunder. People hate them and are not trusted by the people at all. Also, if leadership is vested to commanders and people from second and third files they will not be accepted by the populace. For they act stubbornly. It is better that high posts be given to the opposition leaders, he said.

Results of recent talks between the opposition and the Soviet Union was not in their benefit he said. The world populace came in this conclusion that mujahidins know nothing except war. They are their own sinister purposes, Mojadeddi confessed. At the end of his interview Mojadeddi did not reject possibility for the renewal of talks with the Soviet authorities.

Views Soviet Withdrawal, Shura

PM2301160889 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic
14 Jan 89 p 5

[Interview with mujahidin alliance leader Sebghatullah Mojadeddi by 'Umar Jastinyah in Islamabad; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Jastinyah] What is your position regarding the possibility of King Zahir Shah's return to Afghanistan?

[Mojadeddi] If he were to return as the Afghan people's choice via their representatives at the shura, I would not object at all. No personal issues are involved in the the cause of Afghanistan and its Muslim people. I never said I wanted to kill him because I was put in prison during his era. What has been said in this regard are mere accusations and allegations.

[Jastinyah] Mujahidin-Soviet talks began successfully in Al-Ta'if. Why were they suspended after the second round in Islamabad?

[Mojadeddi] The talks proceeded well in both Al-Ta'if and Islamabad. We decided to continue the talks and negotiations but after the Islamabad negotiations ended we were surprised by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov's remarks that the mujahidin know nothing but war and bloodshed and the Soviets want security for Afghanistan whereas the mujahidin want war and destruction. This is both unacceptable and unreasonable. He also accused us of backwardness and said that we are living in the Middle Ages. [passage omitted]

As a result of Vorontsov's insistence on the agent government's participation in the next government and the communists' participation in the Afghan shura, and as a result of the conditions imposed on us and the threats directed at us, we decided that there was no reason for the negotiations to continue unless they implemented what they emphasized in the past, unconditionally withdrew from Afghanistan, and let the Afghan people determine their own future. We would then be ready to cooperate with them. Vorontsov requested a cease-fire, but we told him that it would be done after the Soviet forces' complete withdrawal, the fall of the agent government, and the formation of a government acceptable to the people. Without that, no cease-fire will be adopted. [passage omitted]

[Jastinyah] Vorontsov did cast doubt on a complete withdrawal by the date set. Do you believe that the Soviets could delay their withdrawal?

[Mojadeddi] Although we want the withdrawal of all Soviet forces from Afghanistan, at the same time we do not care what may be said, because we have plans and objectives and will continue the jihad in order to achieve a complete Soviet withdrawal. We hope that the withdrawal will be implemented on February 15 as scheduled. But this will not affect our jihad or demands. We

want a free Afghanistan and the fall of the agent government so that our people will be able to determine their own future. [passage omitted]

[Jastinyah] What about Vorontsov's statement: "If the mujahidin do not accept our conditions they will be the losers in both the war and the negotiations?"

[Mojadeddi] We are completely ready to defend ourselves, our religion, and our homeland. We believe that it is God who grants victory. And, praise be to God, we are in control of nearly 90 percent of Afghan territory and will continue the jihad, ignoring all threats. [passage omitted]

[Jastinyah] On what basis will the shura be formed?

[Mojadeddi] We have allocated 60 seats to each organization, 50 percent to mujahidin leaders and 50 percent to ulema and tribe leaders and other groups. We have also allocated 60 seats to the Iran-based organizations, but they did not accept this. They are demanding 120 seats, but the number cannot be increased. [passage omitted]

[Jastinyah] How do you expect the new U.S. Administration under President George Bush to deal with the Afghan problem? Will the United States continue to support and back the Afghan mujahidin?

[Mojadeddi] I am optimistic about U.S. President George Bush. During his UN visit last fall the former Afghan mujahidin alliance leader met with President Ronald Reagan who emphasized that the United States would continue its policy of backing the mujahidin. [passage omitted]

Peshawar Coalition Prepared To Talk to USSR
LD2401121989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Sebghatullah Mojadeddi, the present spokesman of the seven-party Afghan mujahidin coalition based in Peshawar, announced that his coalition is prepared to conduct negotiations with the Soviet Union, if that country accepts their conditions.

According to report from the Central News Unit, Mr Mojadeddi, in an interview with (?FRONTIER POST) printed in Peshawar, yesterday, announced that one of the Afghan mujahidin's most important conditions for resuming talks with the Soviet Union is the complete withdrawal of that country's forces from Afghanistan and the cessation of military aid to the Kabul regime.

Sebghatullah Mojadeddi added: In the next few days we plan for a delegation from the Islamic Alliance of Mujahidin, headed by Gulbuddin Hikmatyar—the leader of the Afghan Islamic Party—to travel to Tehran to hold talks with the mujahidin based in Iran on existing problems. In connection with the possibility of Zahir Shah participating in the Consultative Council of the

Afghan Mujahidin, Mojaddedi said: Nevertheless his party intends to involve Zahir Shah's supporters in registrations pertaining to the membership of the Consultative Council.

Soviet Planes Airlifting Food Into Kabul
LD2401201989 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] BAKHTAR reports that despite attempts by opposition extremist groups who are trying to impose further difficulties on the inhabitants of the cities and Kabul's citizens by thieving along the highways and plundering the convoys carrying food and fuel, the convoys continue to arrive in Kabul daily as a result of the heroic work of the patriotic drivers and personnel of the Afghan Armed Forces. However, the air lifting of food began with help from friendly USSR planes. This process will continue daily so that people receive their basic commodities as soon as possible during the winter weather.

BAKHTAR reports that the opposition extremist forces who have suffered continuous military defeats during recent months, planned the economic blockade of the cities on instructions from their foreign supporters to create difficulties for the inhabitants of the cities, without being aware of the fact that the country's public opinion strongly denounces this criminal action as well as launching missiles on the cities.

BAKHTAR adds, while the opposition forces have continued to plunder the convoys along the highways and are responsible for imposing difficulties and starvation on the inhabitants of the city, two of their commanders, in order to justify their criminal actions, have expressed their so-called sympathy for the people through international news agencies. They have promised, despite the circumstances, to end their plunder and attacks on convoys carrying food and fuel and to ask assistance from international aid organizations.

Najibullah Sends Condolences to Gorbachev
LD2501071489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0436 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 24, BAKHTAR—President of the Republic of Afghanistan, Najibullah and Prime Minister Hasan Sharq, have sent a message of sympathy to Moscow addressed to Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU, CC) and Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union on the occasion of sad quake occurred in the Tajik SSR recently.

"We were regrettably informed of the earthquake which shocked the Tajik SSR on January 23, 1989 causing great human and material losses to that Republic. We hereby express best sympathies of our own, state of the Republic

of Afghanistan, Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA, CC) and Afghan people to you and through you to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, government and Soviet people" the message says.

Najibullah Meets With Bangladesh's Abdul Razaq
LD2301070089 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0445 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 22, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA, had a meeting with Abdul Razaq, general secretary of the Central Committee of Peasants and Workers League of Bangladesh here today. At the meeting which was passed at a warm and friendly atmosphere, Najibullah talked about the political-military situation in the country as well as about the process of the policy of national reconciliation.

Reciprocally, Abdul Razaq expressed his support to the policy of national reconciliation and pledged assistance. The delegation is here at the invitation of the PDPA CC for a friendly visit.

Kabul Mayor Interviewed on Military Situation
AU1801204389 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak
16 Jan 89 p 4

[CTK report: "Situation in Kabul"]

[Text] In an interview with CTK, Kabul Mayor Muhammad Hakim declared that the military and security situation in Kabul has recently markedly improved. In this connection, he noted that for quite some time there had been no really serious rocket attacks or bomb outrages against the city's inhabitants. That, however, does not mean that there is no danger, the mayor noted. He said that extremists, who are active around Kabul, are constantly trying to organize subversive actions. However, the terrorists' attempts have met with vigilance on the part of the Afghan Armed Forces, which are now solely responsible for the capital's defense. Therefore, at present the extremists concentrate mainly on the economic blockade of Kabul.

In the past, Kabul's supplies always depended on its surrounding countryside, especially on the country's northern and eastern provinces, and on imports from the Soviet Union and Pakistan, the mayor said. At present, however, Pakistani authorities do not permit such trade, and deliveries from the north, and thus also from the Soviet Union, have been seriously disrupted, particularly by subversive actions of the opposition units of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud in the area of the Salang Highway, through which the main access road from the northern provinces leads to Kabul.

Recently one has succeeded in restoring the connection through Salang, and columns of trucks are reaching Kabul as before. However, the Afghan press has pointed out that there are still extremist attacks on vehicles and freight is stolen. More than 2,000 metric tons of grain, 39 metric tons of oil, and more than 20 metric tons of sugar were delivered to Kabul last week. Difficulties with electricity supplies still continue in the Afghan capital.

Status of Soviet Troop Withdrawal Viewed
*PM2401164189 London ITV Television Network
in English 1900 GMT 23 Jan 89*

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Nik Gowing carried as part of Channel 4 "News" and including interviews with Soviet Major General Lev Serebrov and Soviet soldiers in Russian, with passage-by-passage translation into English, and with a Soviet officer in English; presented by Peter Sissons; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Sissons] There's fresh evidence that the Soviet Union is keeping to its commitment to withdraw all its troops from Afghanistan within the next 3 weeks and that the final pullout is now under way. Today the Soviet deputy foreign minister, Viktor Karpov, said in Geneva that unless the situation changed dramatically, the troops would all be out by 15 February. And Channel 4 News has exclusive pictures of the withdrawal of the 103d Guards who have been responsible for the security of Kabul. The pictures were taken by a Channel 4 News unit and by a Soviet television crew. Our diplomatic correspondent Nik Gowing reports on the departure of one of the Red Army's crack commando and paratroop divisions and how the Soviet forces are trying to disguise the fact that their forces are leaving.

[Gowing] Mid-morning at Kabul airport. The roll call for Red Army soldiers flying home from Afghanistan. For many conscripts these are the last days of their 2 years of military service. Within days they will be demobbed. Others are flying home to see out the last months of the draft at their home base in the western Soviet Union and away from the horrors of war. These are some of the thousands of soldiers in the 103d Guards Air Assault Division, which spearheaded the original invasion in December 1979. Since then the division's commandos and paratroopers have guarded Kabul and the airport; their tanks and armor took a major role in many of the bloodiest operations against the guerrillas.

Each day 2 dozen heavy transport planes fly out—the aircraft fitted with flares to deflect incoming Stinger or Blowpipe missiles fired by guerrillas. Western diplomats say that, weather permitting, there is a marked increase in Aeroflot military flights. They fly the regular 500-mile shuttle to and from Tashkent in the southern Soviet Union. A Soviet general told ITN these troop departures were part of a normal rotation of troops ending military service. Western diplomats monitoring the airport dismiss that. They say that the military service rotation has always

taken place in the spring and autumn. They've seen no evidence that these troops being flown out are being replaced by new raw conscripts being flown in. All that has been seen coming into the airport in recent days is the new airlift of Soviet flour being sent free by the Kremlin to alleviate food shortages in Kabul. This morning we saw another 7 planes arrive carrying 175 tons, and out of view of our camera, we saw soldiers lined up waiting to fly out. But the Soviet general accompanying us still said the final stage of the withdrawal had not begun.

[Serebrov] We have not yet started the withdrawal, but we are ready to withdraw, and when we receive the orders, we will start.

[Gowing] But many of these planes have been taking off recently with 200-300 men on board. What have they been doing then?

[Serebrov] Those airplanes were carrying soldiers who have already served their 2-year term in the Army in Afghanistan, and they were leaving for home.

[Gowing] Yet the clear evidence is of the Red Army packing up, moving out, and handing its bases and hardware over to the Afghans. High in the mountains 15 miles outside the capital, these Afghan soldiers start the long trek to take over a Soviet post on the edge of the Kabul security zone. Twenty soldiers of the 103d Guards have each spent more than a year isolated at 7,000 feet on Hill 27A. Living conditions are cramped and spartan. Soviet soldiers rarely left the compound during their posting here. Now it's being handed over to an officer from the Afghan Army's 6th Brigade. On the evidence every bed, every chair, and every saucepan, every piece of weaponry and hardware was listed by the Soviets before the Afghans checked serial numbers and signed for safe receipt. Then the handing over of the basic things and the few unofficial creature comforts. The Afghans want to haggle for a price. The Soviets say they're "baksheesh"—free—and for nothing. The Soviet conscripts used these boxing gloves to keep fit during the tedium of their long months posted up here. There is a hint of camaraderie.

Officially, the Afghans and Soviets have been fighting for the same cause—to keep the Moscow-backed government in power. Senior Soviet officers say they have every confidence that when their troops leave posts like Hill 27A, their Afghan replacements will be as effective. But off camera departing Soviet soldiers shrug their shoulders, raise their eyes, and say quietly: "The Afghans are nothing." The departing Soviets say they never trusted the Afghans, and they did their best to avoid fighting alongside them. They say that after they've left—without a firm Soviet hand in charge—the shifting allegiances and tribal instincts of the Afghans will destroy any semblance of unity that once existed.

Officially, all 50,000 Soviet troops left in Afghanistan at the halfway stage of the withdrawal last August remain at full strength in 5 of the 31 provinces. The images at the base of the 103d Guards Division tell a different story, a story of the Red Army operating on two levels as it withdraws. Inside the barracks, there's the kind of orderly withdrawal activity which Soviet generals say American officers failed to achieve in Saigon. Some soldiers have even managed to buy Western goods that can be found more easily in Kabul than the Soviet Union. The atmosphere is "demob happy," the conscripts know their part in this war, which bitterly divided East and West for 9 years, is nearly over. Even in these times of glasnost, hearing their true feelings is difficult. They're still serving soldiers who don't feel free to express themselves openly in the presence of senior officers.

[Soldier 1] I don't believe that this is a dirty war because we're here helping the Afghan people, and we are fulfilling our international duty.

[Soldier 2] The sad thing is that the opposition groups have not understood that they were fighting and are fighting against their own people, the people who are very poor, who are hungry, and they are shelling them, they are killing them. This I can never understand.

[Soldier 3] I often took part in combat operations, and I lost two of my friends. One was a very close friend.

[Soldier 4] I was under fire several times but not often, and thank God none of my friends have died.

[Gowing] The withdrawal is a time for exchanging addresses, of beginning to adjust to the realities of civilian life and a Soviet Union changed by Mr Gorbachev's perestroika. Friendships made and consolidated during the shared horrors—of battle, of killing, and of dead and injured comrades—are being forcibly ended by the airlift home.

But outside the base, the Guards barracks looks just as it's done throughout the war. Guards remain prominently on duty at the gates. Regular patrols still leave to tour the city. At the airport Soviet fighter bombers still return from bombing runs over guerrilla supply lines and strongholds towards the Pakistan border. The Soviet tactic is to give the impression that bases like the 103d Guards base remain fully operational to the last. Despite continuing troop withdrawals, it's hoped that guerrillas and Western intelligence will have no accurate idea of the Red Army's fighting strength right up to the last moment when all Soviet troops finally leave the Afghan capital.

The low-key withdrawal is a 24-hour operation. Many soldiers and staff officers have flown out. Others are dispatched in convoys north towards the Soviet border. A Soviet officer confirmed the Red Army has made deals with local guerrilla commandos to keep the road open.

On occasions, he said, his troops had sustained casualties despite assurances of safe passage. In general, though, the pullback is uninterrupted.

[Soviet officer] The mujahidin are not fighting against our troops now, and we are lucky. Yes indeed, we are lucky to go home and to leave this country.

[Gowing] Do you and your troops ever expect to come back to Afghanistan?

[Soviet officer] No, we don't want, we don't want to come here anymore.

[Gowing] The 103d Guards have already had a series of ceremonial sendoffs for their troops. Soviet sources confirm that the military pushed for a rapid, early withdrawal by the end of January. Now, two factors mean the timetable has slipped by two weeks. First, heavy snow has blocked the withdrawal route north through the mountains. Secondly, the Kremlin wants to leave the Afghan Government as much overt support as possible until just before the 15 February withdrawal deadline. As the soldiers continue the withdrawal, there is also the question about how much military hardware the Soviets are leaving behind for the Afghan defense forces. The commander of Soviet forces here recently put the value at 600 million pounds sterling, but he refused to give any details of the kind of equipment the Kremlin hopes will ensure the survival of the regime it invaded Afghanistan to support.

Armed Forces' Combat Operations Detailed

19 Jan Clashes, Casualties

LD2001190689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1430 GMT 20 Jan 89

[Text] Quoting a spokesman of the Armed Forces, the Press Office of the Presidency reported to BIA that the country's armed forces carried out combat operations in the following provinces during the past 24 hours:

Herat: As a result of a combat operation by the armed forces, carried out in the surroundings of Herat City and Enjil District, a number of men attached to the extremists were killed and others were injured. Five rocket launchers with 59 rockets, one artillery, 60 various weapons, five heavy machineguns, dozens of boxes of ammunition and 30 kg of hashish were seized.

Konduz: The armed forces stationed in Konduz Province carried out an operation, killing 65 extremists, including Abdullah and 'Abdul Aziz, ringleaders of the Gulbuddin band. A number of extremists were also injured. Two reactif [rocket missile] launcher units of the enemy were eliminated.

Qandahar: The armed extremists used heavy weapons to attack the security post, injuring four armed forces personnel. The armed forces retaliated and inflicted blows on the

concentration centers of the enemy; a number of the extremists were killed, seven hideouts were destroyed, 59 mines of mortar (711) rockets and hundreds rounds of ammunition for various weapons were seized.

Nangarhar: As a result of crushing blows by the armed forces a number of extremists including a ringleader of [word indistinct] group were killed. A number of extremists were seriously injured in Shewa District, Nangarhar Province.

Paktia: The criminal extremists used heavy weapons to attack security posts in Nader Shah Kowt and (?Kharjin) regions of Khowst City and the residential areas of our compatriots. One woman was martyred and one house was destroyed. As a result of retaliatory blows by the armed forces heavy loss of life was inflicted on the enemy.

Ghowr: The armed forces carried out combat operations in the surroundings of Ghowr Province as a result of which 15 extremists were killed.

Jowzjan: The units of the armed forces in Jowzjan Province inflicted blows on a 17-man armed extremists who intended to disrupt the peaceful life of our compatriots in Aqchah District, Jowzjan Province. Seven extremists, including their ringleaders, were killed and another seven were arrested. One rocket launcher with ten rockets, one heavy machinegun, and thousands of rounds of ammunition for various weapons were seized.

Kabul: The units and companies of the armed forces inflicted heavy blows on the plundering extremists in the surroundings of Qarah Bagh District, Kabul Province. A number of extremists were crushed. Two reactif units of the enemy were destroyed.

Clashes, Casualties 22 Jan

*LD2301202689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1430 GMT 23 Jan 89*

[Text] As a result of Armed Forces combat operations and bloody clashes between the warmongering extremists groups in the last 24 hours in various parts of the country 97 warmongering extremists have been killed and 29 of their hideouts and trenches have been destroyed. Some 6,510 shells of various caliber have been destroyed or seized by the Armed Forces. Citing an Armed Forces spokesman, a BAKHTAR military section correspondent reports:

Qandahar: Following combat operations in the regions of Daman, (Shaker Ganj), (Nader Qala), and west (Sarpoza) 15 armed extremists were crushed and 510 shells, 4 boxes of light weapons ammunition, 52 mines and hand grenades were seized. A rocket, 2 mortars, heavy machineguns, Dshk, and 20 hideout trenches of the enemy were destroyed. The extremists' heavy artillery fire on the security posts surrounding Qandahar city martyred one soldier and wounded two.

Parvan: The Armed Forces attacked the warmongering extremists who intended to disrupt the peaceful life of the people in Bagram District. As a result, three extremists were killed.

Nangarhar: Following the successful operations by the Armed Forces in Nangarhar Province the extremist groups have become aware of their baseless ideas and their internecine clashes intensify daily. As a result of the armed clashes among the extremists groups and crushing blows by the Armed Forces in the last 24 hours 9 extremists have been killed and 11 wounded in various parts of Nangarhar Province.

Ghazni: The armed clashes between the extremists groups are intensifying daily. As a result of the clashes between the group of Sayyed Jagran and hostile groups, a number of the Sayyed Jagran's group were arrested by rival groups.

In other armed clashes between rival groups in the region of Qarah Bagh District, Ghazni Province, 29 people from both sides were killed and 26 were wounded.

Herat: As a result of armed clashes among the members of the Jamiyat and the so-called Eslami groups in Shindand District, Herat Province 50 people from both sides were killed and 250 members of so-called Eslami group were captured by the Jamiyat group.

Paktia: In the last 24 hours the criminal extremists have fired 138 rounds of long range weapons, mortars, and rockets on Khowst major district and on the units and companies there, martyring two of our compatriots.

Helmand: On 21 January the criminal extremists fired with heavy weapons on the residential areas of ward No 2 of Helmand center and on (Abasabad), wounding four civilians.

Fighting, Casualties 23 Jan

*LD2401185589 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 24 Jan 89*

[Text] A competent source of the Afghan Armed Forces reported to the BIA military section that as a result of lashes of the extremist warmongering groups with the Afghan Armed Forces, the extremists suffered heavy losses in some parts of the country and a large amount of their assorted weapons were seized. Here is a brief report of the military situation during the past 24 hours:

Parvan: The extremist groups who were threatening the security and tranquillity of the people of Tajekan region of Jabal os Salaj, were confronted by the armed forces stationed in the area. As a result, 24 saboteurs and 2 of their ringleaders, including (Gaylani), were crushed. Also as a result of heavy weapons fire by the enemy in the Jabal os Saraj and the Monarch regions, one soldier was martyred and five were wounded. Three enemy trucks were destroyed in the clashes.

Herat: As a result of heavy blows by the Armed Forces in the (Pol-e Regina) region, (Pol-e Jahan) of Enjil District, and the environs of Herat city, 50 extremists belonging to the Jamiyat group were punished for their actions. As a result of an investigation by security forces in the suburbs and city of Herat, 10 Kalashnikovs, 3 assorted machine guns, 6 11-round rifles, 53 boxes of ammunition for Kalashnikovs, 226 hand grenades, 6 boxes of ZK-1 ammunition, 5 boxes of DShK ammunition, 18 boxes of machine gun ammunition, 96 kg of hashish and (liquid) opium, and 1 truck full of assorted smugglers goods were seized.

Nangarhar: As a result of artillery and aerial blows and clashes between the armed forces and extremists in the Gowshtah, Kameh, and (Shinwar) districts, Nangarhar Province, 68 extremists were killed.

Qandahar: As a result of blows by the air force and artillery in Bazar-e Panjva'i and other regions of Qandahar Province, 62 people belonging to extremist groups, including 1 ringleader named Faruq, were killed and 6 were wounded. As a result of the launching of heavy weapons by the enemy in Qandahar City, two soldiers and one civilian were injured. According to another report, two rocket missile units; seven DShKs; four ZK-1; five mortars; three ammunition dumps; two weapons stores; two Stinger placements; including one Stinger missile, and a large number of enemy hideouts and strongholds were destroyed in various parts of the province.

Paktia: Extremist armed groups launched 37 rounds of heavy weapons against Gardeyz City, as a result of which 1 soldier and a number of occupants of local and state buildings were wounded. As a result of the launch of heavy weapons by the extremists in the Khowst major district, one member of the security forces of the district and two local residents were wounded.

Kabul: As a result of artillery fire by the armed forces around Sarowbi district, 75 extremist warmongers were killed and 18 wounded. Three rocket missile units, three mortars, two recoilless guns, two DShK's, three strongholds, and two weapons and ammunition caches of the enemy were destroyed. According to another report, two hand grenades, which had been placed and timed to explode in the doors of two low-income houses in the Pol-e Charkhi project, were discovered and neutralized by the security personnel.

According to the latest reports, during armed clashes between the extremist groups at the Mir Bacheh Kowt district, and the Hazrat-e Soltan subdistrict, Samangan Province, a total of 50 extremists, including 1 ringleader, were killed, and a large number were wounded.

Pakistani Violations of Accords Reported to UN

190th, 191st Protest Notes

*LD2201064089 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 21 Jan 89*

[Text] This afternoon the 190th and 191st notices of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan concerning 11 violations of the provisions of the Geneva accords by

Pakistan, were handed to the office of UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices in Afghanistan and Pakistan] in Kabul. Accurate information was given in these notes about violations by the Pakistani Government and they asked the UN mission to investigate the violations in these notes in accordance with Paragraph 7, Document No 4 of the Geneva accords.

Protest Notice No 192

*LD2301064689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0430 GMT 23 Jan 89*

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 22, BAKHTAR—The one hundred ninety second notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on Pakistani violations of the second article, document number one of the Geneva accords was submitted to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here today. In the notice strict information on 29 instances of ever increasing Pakistani violations from the said accords are given. It asks UNGOMAP that on the basis of Paragraph Seven, Document Number Four of the Geneva accords investigate those violations and adopt necessary measures in this connection.

Protest Notice No 193

*LD2401095789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0451 GMT 24 Jan 89*

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 23, BAKHTAR—The 193rd notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on 16 instances of Pakistani violations of the Geneva agreements were submitted by the Afghan Foreign Ministry to the United Nations Good Offices Mission, UNGOMAP, in Kabul. The notice stipulates that arms and ammunitions are sent to the territory of Afghanistan via Pakistani territory with the direct intervention of the military authorities of that country in order to fan up fratricidal war. The UNGOMAP was asked to investigate the violations according to Paragraph 7, Document No 4 of the Geneva agreements.

Daily Expects Bush To Observe Geneva Accords

*LD2401095689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0442 GMT 24 Jan 89*

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 23 (BAKHTAR)—The State of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Afghan people are expecting the new Government of Pakistan and the United States' new administration in particular to put an end to the direct and indirect interventions by their countries into the internal affairs of Afghanistan and to bring about favourable conditions for the expansion of relations between Afghanistan and their countries, reads an article published by daily ANIS.

The United States and the Soviet Union as super powers, the article goes on, have signed the Geneva agreements as guarantors to implement it. In this direction, the Soviet Union has fulfilled all its obligations including the withdrawal of its limited military contingents. However,

the United States during Ronald Reagan's rule not only have not fulfilled its obligations but has heightened the delivery of weapons through Pakistan to the Afghan opposition.

Now that George Bush has become the U.S. President, we are expecting him to take practical measures for the fulfillment of obligations of the United States as guarantor to the Geneva agreements. The new U.S. Administration can also influence, adds the daily, the Government of Pakistan to observe the provisions of Geneva agreements for the cause of a stable peace in the region as well as for establishing an atmosphere of good will.

Pol-e Khomri, Omsk Sign Cooperation Protocol
LD2201065289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0415 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 21, BAKHTAR—With the realisation of the policy of national reconciliation and implementation of the Geneva accords direct cooperations between cities and provinces of the Republic of Afghanistan and those of the Soviet Union are expanding, a source of the Direct Cooperations Office of the Council of Ministers said in an interview here.

It was on the basis of these cooperations that a delegation from Pol-e Khomri District, Baghlan Province recently left for Omsk, a city of the Soviet Union, and after concluding a protocol of cooperation with the Soviet side returned home. On the basis of the protocol, the Omsk, in addition to the training of the Afghan professional cadres, will provide a large amount of essential goods, machineries and technical equipment worth over one million rubles to the Pol-e Khomri district.

Ex-King Zahir Shah Interviewed on Future Role
AU2301215689 Vienna DER STANDARD in German
23 Jan 89 p 3

[Interview with former King Zahir Shah by Patrice Claude in Rome: "Zahir Shah: Only Without Communists"—date not given]

[Text] Rome—The Soviets have only a little time left to withdraw their troops from Afghanistan. The negotiations with the mujahidin failed because of the Soviet demand to leave the current government in Kabul in office as a transition leadership. Thus, Moscow has only one card left: Zahir Shah, the former king of Afghanistan. Patrice Claude spoke with the ex-monarch, who lives in exile in Rome.

[Claude] Your Majesty, have you posed any conditions for your return?

Zahir Shah: No, I do not pose any personal conditions. My return to Afghanistan exclusively depends on the wishes of the people. In principle, I am willing to accept any position.

[Claude] Did you tell the Soviets this? How were the talks with Gorbachev's special envoy Vorontsov?

Zahir Shah: They were to stake out viewpoints. The Soviets have established contacts with several Afghan forces in order to find out how the conflict can be solved.

[Claude] Would you receive Najibullah, the chief of the communist government, if he so desires?

Zahir Shah: No! This government is neither legal nor legitimate. Hence all the people oppose it.

[Claude] And if you were to meet him accidentally, what would you say?

Zahir Shah: Resign immediately! Make room for a transitional government.

[Claude] In which communists should be included?

Zahir Shah: No! A party which bears this name cannot play a political role at present, because this would be rejected by the majority of the population. We believe that the "jirgah" (the traditional great council of men, of which the former king is a member) should be convened to newly settle the legal and legitimate political conditions.

[Claude] Certain groups of the mujahidin are, however, decidedly against this, because they consider the "jirgah" a monarchist instrument.

Zahir Shah: Our country's history proves that this is completely wrong. The "jirgah" continued to exist after my emigration. It is representative of democracy.

[Claude] But then communists would also have to be represented.

Zahir Shah: Not as a party under this name. One would have to find another way to make it possible for the "people of Kabul" to participate.

[Claude] Do you see your role as president of the "jirgah"?

Zahir Shah: It corresponds to tradition that the great council assembly empowers a venerable person to chair the first session. Then a president is elected.

[Claude] How should the Republic of Afghanistan define itself—Islamic, laicistic, or people's democratic?

Zahir Shah: I do not have any opinion on this. The people will decide.

India

President's Rule in Tamil Nadu, Mizoram Revoked
BK2401125789 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] President's rule in Tamil Nadu and Mizoram has been revoked. This was announced in New Delhi today. The decision follows the recent assembly elections held in the two states.

President Accepts Resignation of Bihar Governor
BK2401080189 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] The president, Mr Venkataraman, today accepted the resignation of the Bihar governor, Mr Govind Narain Singh. According to a Rashtrapathy Bhavan [President's House] communique, the president has appointed the chief justice of Patna high court, Mr Justice Deepakumar Sen, to discharge the function of the governor of Bihar.

2 Bihar Ministers Quit
BK2501035089 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] In Bihar, two ministers of state—Mr Amrendra Mishra and Mr Devendranath Champia—have resigned from the ministry. Speaking to newsmen in Patna, they said they have no longer any confidence in Mr Bhagawad Jha Azad's leadership. Meanwhile, several union ministers, including Mr Bindeshwari Dubey and Mr K.K. Tiwari, have arrived in Patna to help defuse the crisis following a threat by dissident Congress-I legislators to boycott the assembly session beginning today. They said they will not attend the session until Mr Azad steps down as chief minister. However, the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr Bhishma Prasad Yadav, has issued a whip to Congress-I legislators to attend the 9-day session.

On the opening day, the acting governor, Justice D.K. Sen, will address a joint session of the state legislature. The chief minister will present the first supplementary budget for 1988-89.

Sikh Militants Kill 7, Wound Hindu Politician
BK2401154189 Hong Kong AFP in English
1528 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 24 (AFP)—Sikh militants shot and wounded a right-wing politician in an abortive assassination bid and killed seven people in three overnight shootings in Punjab, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported Tuesday.

Jagdish Rai Monga, Bharatiya Janata Party (Indian People's Party) general secretary in Punjab, was fired at by two Sikh militants as he was repairing his motor-scooter near his home in Bhatinda town, PTI quoted police as saying.

Mr. Monga was hit in the chest and a bullet grazed his skull, the news agency added. The gunmen stole a motor-cycle parked nearby and fled, PTI said.

In a separate incident in the district centred on the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, Sikh militants shot dead a Hindu milkman, his son and a brother in Santu Nangal village, PTI said. Six gunmen also stormed a house-warming celebration in Patiala District and opened fire, killing a Sikh and his son and wounding his wife and daughter, the agency said.

Two unidentified villagers were killed in Gurdaspur District, PTI said without giving details. The death toll is approaching 100 in the new year in violence related to a Sikh militant campaign in Punjab for a separate Sikh homeland called Khalistan (land of the pure). More than 2,200 people died violently last year.

President Views Economy in Republic Day Message
BK2401103989 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information
Service in English 0942 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Address to the Nation by President R.I. Venkataraman on 25 January, the eve of Republic Day 1989]

[Text] Friends, on the eve of India's 40th Republic Day, I extend to all fellow citizens my fraternal greetings and good wishes. Four decades ago, after we had attained independence under Mahamata Gandhi's leadership, our vast and diverse nation was galvanised into a republic with the Desharatna Dr Rajendra Prasad taking office as our first president. The renowned poet Ramdhari Sinha Dinkar wrote on that auspicious occasion (and I quote):

Sab say virat janatantra jagat ka aa pahauncha

Tainttees koti-hitt simhasan taiyar karo

Abhishek aaj raja ka nahi praja ka hai

Tainttees koti janata ke sir per mukut dharo.

The world's biggest republic is now born!

So set yourself to enthrone

Not one monarch

But the thirty three crore people of India;

So set yourself to coronate

Not one monarch

But the thirty three crore people of India!

The formation of the republic—the janatantra or gana-tantra as we call it—brought our diverse people closer together. It was remarkable that our national consolidation took place without major upheavals or violence—

thanks to the vision of our Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, the decisiveness of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and the pragmatism of our national leaders. This process of consolidation and integration has continued apace. The emergence of full-fledged states in the north east has helped to bring the people of that region more fully into the mainstream. Constructive dialogues with those who still stood aside in some of these areas, have led to an understanding with them.

A new chapter opened recently in Tripura where some sections realising the futility of violence, joined the mainstream of the national development process. Likewise, the setting up of the Hill Council in Darjeeling and elections thereto, has brought peace to an area which threatened to become explosive. The peace-loving nature of our people as a whole constitutes a positive sign and encourages us to hope for a workable solution to the torment of Punjab. Continuing terrorist violence in that state anguishes all of us. But it is heartening that in their efforts to combat terrorism, the authorities are receiving full cooperation from the people of the state. It is my belief that the holding of panchayat [village council] elections in the state, will help the process of restoration of peace and normalcy in Punjab.

Violence and terrorism have no place in any civilized society, much less in India which is the home of ahimsa [nonviolence]. The perpetration of violent acts, especially on totally innocent victims, therefore causes the greatest sorrow to us. But wisdom lies in refusing to let the acts of a few to provoke us into any form of rancour or ill will between communities or regions. The people of India have a deep faith in a peaceful democratic order. This faith of our people must be zealously protected and strengthened. Nagaland and Mizoram as you all know went to the polls along with Tamil Nadu only last week, reaffirming once again the nation's deep commitment to the democratic process. No matter who or which political party wins an election, the real winner is the voter.

In a developing society, however, mere representation is not enough; participation and continuing progress are also necessary. Our national ethos, which is built up of several sub-national impulses, needs to be absorbed into the nation's progress towards a better life for its people. Forty years ago, the light of life in the overwhelming part of the country burned dimly. Our agriculture functioned at subsistence levels, our industry was minimal. But, thanks to our successive plans and the harnessing of science and technology for economic development, the picture has vastly changed. The economy showed remarkable strength and resilience to withstand several adversities, including the recent severe drought of 1987; there has been a remarkable recovery in 1988.

Agricultural production is expected to recover fully from the adverse effects of the drought and the year 1988-89 is expected to show a record production of food grains and oil seeds. This has been rendered possible by the infrastructure developed over the years and policy initiatives

of government, together with the diligence and devotion of the farming community of India. A significant aspect of the economy in recent years has been the rapid growth of industry and its continued diversification. In the first half of 1988-89 the industrial sector recorded a growth of over 10 per cent. The infrastructure sector has continued to show commendable performance and to provide strong support. Several sectors such as coal, power, steel, telecommunications, fertilizers, crude oil, railway freight as well as cargo traffic handled at major ports have exceeded the targets. As a result of strong growth in various sectors, the GDP [Gross Domestic Product] is likely to show an impressive growth rate of 10 per cent in 1988-89. The dedication of our farmers, workers and managers, which has made this possible, deserves to be commended.

Two notable features since the founding of the republic have been the setting up of the process of planning and the major support for science and technology. This has resulted in the development of indigenous and self-reliant capabilities in key sectors and the creation of a large infrastructure of three million skilled scientific and technical personnel. New areas such as biotechnology, ocean science, environment, microelectronics, informatics, new energy sources and the like have also received high priority. All these are achievements of which the nation can be proud.

But economic growth and production are only part of the story. Equally important is the distribution of the fruits of production, especially to the poorest sections of our society. This is why our planning strategy has always emphasized that growth must be accompanied by equity and social justice. The removal of poverty must continue to receive our highest priority. Ways and means need to be found to ensure that the benefits of progress percolate to the masses. We rightly derive satisfaction from the fact that the percentage of population below the poverty line has declined. But large numbers of our people still remain below the poverty line. We must, therefore, dedicate ourselves earnestly to the task of eliminating poverty and at the same time reducing disparities. Government is, of course, giving the highest priority to rural development programmes, the promotion of small industries, schemes for self-employment and to fostering of the services sector and development of supportive infrastructure. But substantial increase in the per capita availability of cloth, food articles such as edible oils and sugar and infrastructural services such as electricity and transport still remain to be achieved. These services will also need to become increasingly conscious of the requirements of efficiency and quality in delivery.

The problem of poverty will have to be tackled by a process which ensures adequate transfer of resources to rural development and to the amelioration of underprivileged sections like the scheduled castes and tribes and the urban dispossessed. Concerted measures need to be undertaken with greater vigour to achieve the constitutional goal of free and compulsory education for all

children under 14. Special thought must be bestowed on educational coverage for girls. With an annual population increase of 16 million the problem of unemployment and the misery that accompanies it continues to bedevil us. Enlargement of the scope for self employment must therefore receive high priority in our schemes.

In this context it becomes necessary to conserve our resources and get full value for whatever we spend by increasing productivity. There is need to examine every project from the viewpoint of cost effectiveness and its utility to the largest numbers. Economy in the handling of our scarce resources should be not just a policy with us but an ethic, not just a desirable aim but a working principle. Everyone has to be conscious of it. The phrase "economy drive" has been used to the point of tedium in the past. But no patient has suffered from a good prescription being repeated. We have to ensure adequate availability of resources for development, while keeping internal and external debt within prudent limits. The vocabulary of growth must be held in position by the grammar of financial discipline and the punctuations of a social ideology.

Progress, in order to be real, needs another condition precedent also, namely, that of a peaceful international and regional environment. A happy development during the last year has been the improvement in the international environment. The emerging detente between the Soviet Union and United States of America following the INF Treaty has not only raised the expectation of further major steps towards disarmament but has contributed to the resolution of regional conflicts. The Geneva accords on Afghanistan, the halting of the Iran-Iraq war, the agreement aimed at securing the independence of Namibia and the prospects of forward movement on the Kampuchean and the Palestinian issues have been positive developments.

The processes of regional cooperation within the framework of SAARC have continued steadily and people to people contacts within the region have begun to expand. The decision to draw up a regional perspective plan—"SAARC 2000"—will help focus attention on problems common to the region. The dialogue with the newly-elected democratic government of Pakistan that has been initiated by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi during his visit to Islamabad opens up the prospects of an improved relationship between our two countries. India will make all possible efforts to promote speedy normalisation of relations with Pakistan.

There has been continued progress in the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement of July 1987 and several significant developments have taken place recently. A provisional government has been set up in the north-east of Sri Lanka which is working towards normalisation. Legislation has been enacted to give

Tamil equal status as an official language and for resolving the problem of statelessness among people of Indian origin. We hope to work closely with the government of Sri Lanka for further improving our relations.

The prime minister's visit to China in December 1988 was an event that marked a new and decisive phase in India-China relations. It has opened up prospects for the normalisation of our relationship with China which will be major contribution to peace and cooperation in Asia and the world. It is our hope that a peaceful solution to problems facing Afghanistan would be found through strict observance of the Geneva accords by all parties. These developments auger well for strengthening the forces of peace in the world so that its resources may be released for development and prosperity.

May I once again offer Republic Day greetings to our kisans [farmers] and mazdoors [workers], to our entrepreneurs, our technicians, to our weavers and artisans to our creative artistes, writers, our teachers, students and to all sons and daughters of India. I would like to add special greetings and good wishes to our brave jawans [soldiers], sailors and airmen who form our valiant Defence Forces. It is their patriotism, bravery and vigil on our frontiers that have guarded our freedom and enabled us to plan and work for future progress.

The distinguished Tamil poet Kavimani Desikavinakyakam Pillai wrote:

Unnum unavukku yengaamal

Udukkum aadaikku alaiamal

Pannum thozhilgal pala kanbom

Panjappeyay thuraththiduvom

Annal Gandhi vazhi patri

Akilam pughazha vallthidivom.

These lines mean:

Not begging for our food

Not for our clothes

We establish many

Productive enterprises

And drive the ogre of famine

From our midst

And following Gandhiji's footsteps

We shall achieve world renown.

As we watch the tricolour go up tomorrow morning, may all of us hold our heads high with pride and confidence in a better and brighter future. May I remind the nation of what the nightingale of India, Smt [Mrs] Sarojini Naidu, speaking in the constituent assembly, said (and I quote): Remember, under this flag there is no prince and there is no peasant, there is no rich and there is no poor. There is no privilege, there is only duty and responsibility and sacrifice. Whether we be Hindus or Muslims, Christians, Jains, Sikhs or Zoroastrians and others, our mother India has one undivided heart and one indivisible spirit. Men and women of reborn India, rise and salute this flag! I bid you rise and salute the flag. Jai Hind. [Hail India]

Gandhi Discusses Relations With Vietnam

BK2301160389 Hanoi VNA in English

1506 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 23—Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has granted the following interview to the New Delhi-based VNA correspondent on the occasion of the current visit to India by party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh as the guest of honour at the celebration of the Indian Republic Day:

- Question 1: Your Excellency, what is your ideas about the friendly relationship and cooperation between India and Vietnam at present and the prospects of further developing these relations?

- Answer: India and Vietnam have a shared experience of a long struggle for liberation from foreign domination. The leaders of our freedom struggle, like Ho Chi Minh and Jawaharlal Nehru, had a deep commitment to the promotion of freedom, liberty and justice. Our ties have been further cemented by the exchange of visits at the highest level between our two countries and a shared commitment to peace, development and nationalistic ideals.

We have been privileged to receive President Ho Chi Minh and Prime Minister Pham Van Dong in India. My grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru and mother Indira Gandhi visited Vietnam to exchange views with your leaders. I myself have had the pleasure of visiting your beautiful country in November 1985 and April 1988. We now look forward to welcoming the general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, His Excellency Nguyen Van Linh.

Both India and Vietnam have worked steadfastly for strengthening the unity of the Nonaligned Movement. We have worked together in the Nonaligned Movement to promote the cause of peace, disarmament and development. We have expanded our bilateral ties and are collaborating with each other in a wide range of activities including petroleum exploration, peaceful uses of nuclear energy, railways and in industrial development. We have also expanded our cooperation in agriculture and animal husbandry.

I am confident that following the visit of His Excellency Nguyen Van Linh ties between India and Vietnam will be further strengthened and we will continue to work together for promoting the ideals which President Ho Chi Minh and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru cherished.

Question 2: Now that the world situation is fast changing, what initiatives the Nonaligned Movement in general and India in particular will take to expedite this trend in the interests of the struggle for peace, stability, cooperation and development in our region and the world over?

Answer: The world is today witnessing momentous developments with an era of suspicion and confrontation being replaced by new trends towards negotiation and cooperation. The Nonaligned Movement, which we regard as the largest peace movement in the world, has played an important role in lessening tensions and in promoting peace, disarmament and development. India has consistently advocated the need to work for the establishment of a nuclear weapon free and nonviolent world order. The action plan on disarmament which I presented to the UN General Assembly last year clearly spells out a course of action which would enable us to achieve these objectives. We would like to see the unity of the Nonaligned Movement strengthened so that we can work together not only for building a just and more equitable world order but also to assist in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, to facilitate the independence of Namibia and to see that the Palestinians attain their just and inalienable rights.

- Question 3: What is your opinion about a correct solution to the Kampuchean issue, as well as the prospects of turning Southeast Asia into a peaceful, stable and cooperative region?

- Answer: India favours a negotiated political solution to the Kampuchean issue which will guarantee the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and nonaligned status of Kampuchea. Such a solution should ensure that the people of Kampuchea are never subjected again to the sufferings and traumas they experienced from the genocidal Pol Pot regime. We have extended our support to moves which would facilitate such a solution, including initiatives taken by the Nonaligned Movement, the JIM [Jakarta informal meeting], and the talks in Paris between the concerned Kampuchean parties.

We are optimistic that the initiatives now being taken would lead to a solution of the Kampuchean issue and promote peace, stability and cooperation in Southeast Asia.

- Question 4: On the occasion of General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh's official visit to India, what is your message to the Vietnamese people?

- Answer: We are keenly looking forward to General Secreatry Nguyen Van Linh's visit to India as our guest of honour on the occasion of our Republic Day celebrations. We in India have the highest admiration for and solidarity with the Vietnamese people for their heroic struggle against colonialism and for the unification of their nation. I wish the people of Vietnam all success in the efforts they are making for progreas and prosperity. I am confident that India and Vietnam will continue to work together to strengthen their ties and promote peace, stability and cooperation in Asia and in the world. The people of India look forward to strengthening their ties of friendship and cooperation with the people of Vietnam.

Bush Tasks, Relations With India Examined
BK2101123589 Delhi General Overseas Service
in English 1010 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Rajan Gupta commentary: "On George Bush, the New U.S. President"]

[Text] Few men bring so much of continuity and experience to the American presidency as Mr George Bush, the 41st President of the United States. This makes his job more difficult and also more challenging. As vice president to Mr Ronald Reagan, he was part of the decisionmaking process of the previous administration. He cannot now suddenly turn around and say he rejects all that Mr Reagan stood for.

In a way, continuity has been imposed on Mr George Bush and at least for some time the changes will only be cosmetic. Yet, serving as vice president has given Mr Bush an experience that few new presidents or prime ministers bring to their jobs. He knows the ins and outs of the American Government. This certainly is an advantage. Though it may be something of a disappointment to foreign governments dealing with Washington because they cannot really now look forward to a complete break from the past, as happened often when one government replaces another.

But two things will have to be noted in viewing the Bush Presidency. One, the change in the international environment. When Mr Ronald Reagan became American President, confrontations between the superpowers were at their height in Afghanistan, Kampuchea, and Nicaragua. In Europe, in space, in the Star Wars program, there was a militancy bordering on brinkmanship. All that has now changed because of the sagacity of Mr Gorbachev in defusing world tension and the response by former President Reagan in agreeing to cuts, the world is today a safer place. Perhaps never since the turn of the century has there been such an international environment of peace. This is bound to affect the policies of President George Bush.

The second point to note is that Mr Bush was not elected on the same hawkish platform as Mr Reagan. He does not have to do a Grenada or a Libya to prove that he is the tough American leading the world's most powerful

nation. He can afford to be more moderate without losing electoral credibility and appeal. Mr George Bush is typically American in background. Very much upper middle class with a father who was a partner of a well-known Wall Street firm and later a senator, Mr Bush himself has a public school and Yale University background and was owner of Zapata Petroleum Corporation in Houston before entering politics and being elected to the U.S. Senate. His upbringing, too, is similar to Mr Reagan's California conservatism. Perhaps Mr Bush's background is more elitist.

In Mr Bush, we see the modern technocratic America as opposed to the old egalitarian liberal America. This is no bad thing for India, and it is time we change our perception about the United States and think only the liberals are friends of India. Mr Bush was Mr Rajiv Gandhi's host in Texas when the prime minister visited the United States, and the two leaders got on very well. In fact, Mr George Bush was considered the pro-Indian stalwart in the Reagan establishment.

What we need from the United States at this stage is technology and political understanding as both may be forthcoming with Bush in the White House. Fortunately, Mr Bush does have a fair deal of experience of the Third World. He was U.S. ambassador to the United Nations from December 1970 to January 1973. Later, he was head of the U.S. Liaison Office in China. He has also traveled extensively in Asia and Africa and visited India in 1984.

For the 1st few months, domestic problems will keep George Bush occupied. The United States has a staggering deficit problem, the disparity between rich and poor is growing in that country, and he faces a Congress, which is under the control of the opposition Democrats. In addition, of course, Mr Bush has to now return favors and fill in 4,000 high-level jobs—no easy task even at the best of time.

In foreign policy, it will be interesting to see whether Mr Bush will get on as well with President Gorbachev as did his predecessor in his last few months in office. U.S.-Soviet relations will determine much else in other parts of the world. Central America will receive U.S. attention. But one way that Bush can establish his credibility as a matured leader is to let the Latin Americans, particularly Nicaragua, determine its own future as its people want.

In the case of India, one hopes that there will be a move to delink India from Pakistan in America's strategic perceptions. India is a large and developed country in its own right and should be viewed as such. This business of also arming Pakistan because of the Soviet threat in Afghanistan, is now outdated because Soviet troops continue to pull out of Afghanistan. Supply of American arms to Pakistan can affect U.S. relations with India. And this is something that Mr Bush should realize, particularly as vice president he had been sympathetic to

Indian aspirations. The Bush administration should have an enlightened approach to India, particularly as both countries have a long tradition of democracy.

Iran

124 Disabled POW's Return Home From Iraq *LD2401133189 Tehran IRNA in English 1307 GMT* *24 Jan 89*

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA—Another group of 124 disabled and sick Iranian prisoners of war were flown home Wednesday [as received] aboard a Swissair aircraft, bringing to 255 the number of POWs repatriated to Iran in the past two days. The released war prisoners are mostly border civilians, kidnapped by Ba'athist troops in the early days of the Iraqi aggression. The POWs were repatriated to Iran by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

One month after Iran lodged an official protest to ICRC against the Baghdad regime's violation of the understanding reached at Geneva on exchange of sick and disabled POWs, Baghdad pressed by world bodies has relented and set free only two batches of war prisoners. According to the Geneva Protocol, 1,158 Iraqi POWs and 411 Iranian POWs were to be freed in 10 batches from November 20. But in three stages the Iraqi regime released only 56 POWs including a group of border civilians kidnapped in the initial days of its aggression and then suddenly without any reasons had halted the POW swap.

Amnesty Marks Islamic Revolution Anniversary *LD2401161789 Tehran IRNA in English 1601 GMT* *24 Jan 89*

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA—Those imprisoned for activities linked with anti-revolutionary groups would receive a reduction in their sentence or go free with the consent of the relevant authorities marking the 10th anniversary of the Islamic revolution next month. However those guilty of premeditated murder are excluded from an instruction proposed by Imam Khomeyni's committee in charge of pardons and approved by Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri. The convicted anti-revolutionaries sentenced before 21 January would go home or spend less time in jail depending on what percentage of their sentence had been completed.

Unlike other criminals covered by the amnesty they must repent and seek the approval of the prosecutor, the Islamic judge and the Information Ministry. The amnesty follows a decision Saturday for the general release of prisoners jailed for less than four years by military and special courts. Thousands of military and ordinary prisoners have already been freed from several provincial jails in the past month. According to an official instruction to state and Islamic courts published

in Tuesday's issue of the daily KEYHAN the amnesty would cover all prisoners except those particularly involved in narcotics which is the target of a current major clean-up campaign.

Those sentenced to a year or less, those who would spend a third of their 1 to 5 year sentence, a quarter of their 5 to 10 year sentence, a fifth of their 10 to 15 year sentence or a sixth of their 15 to 20 year sentence up to June 5 would be freed. Men above the age of 60 and women over 50 would also be released if convicted for the first time. The exemptions include those convicted of premeditated murder, narcotics trafficking, rape, armed robbery, and spying.

Velayati To Mediate Amal-Hizballah Dispute

Leaves for Damascus

LD2201160389 Tehran IRNA in English 1554 GMT
22 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan 22 IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati heading a delegation left for Syria this afternoon for talks to solve the fratricidal Amal-Hizballah clashes. Expressing regret over the unwarranted fighting between two Muslim groups, Velayati told reporters before departure that the fratricide benefits neither of the belligerents in Lebanon and "should be ended as soon as possible."

He hoped that all-out efforts of ulema, progressive elements of the Lebanese government, and Muslims of the country would help stop the clashes. "The best way for permanent cessation of hostilities is to follow Islamic teachings which call for unity and consolidation of all Muslims against the enemies," Velayati said.

During his one-day stay in Damascus Velayati is to hold talks with senior Syrian officials and representatives of ulema and combatants of Lebanon. Deputy Foreign Minister for Afro-Arab Affairs Hoseyn Sheikh-ol-Eslam, the Ministry's spokesman Morteza Sarmadi, director general for the Middle East and North Africa Qasem Moheb-ali-Khan and a group of other Ministry officials are accompanying Velayati in the visit.

To Revisit Damascus 26 Jan

LD2501105689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, who led a delegation to Damascus to end the clashes between Hizballah and Amal, this morning returned to Tehran. Before leaving Syria he announced that he will be returning to Damascus on Thursday [26 Jan] to prepare the preliminaries to a complete and final peace between Hizballah and Amal.

Lavasani Meets With UN Special Envoy Eliasson
LD2401114389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Mr Jan Eliasson, special envoy of the UN secretary general, who has come to Tehran to discuss the progress on the talks on implementing Security Council Resolution 598, met with Mr Lavasani, international affairs under secretary of the Foreign Ministry today. According to a Central News Unit report, during the meeting, the obstacles placed by Iraq in the way of implementing Resolution 598 and the steps to be taken by the secretary general were discussed.

Tehran Radio on Mission

LD2401130889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Yesterday Mr Eliasson, the special envoy of Javier Perez de Cuellar, arrived in Tehran within the framework of activating the Iran-Iraq talks under the auspices of the UN secretary general. He will go to Baghdad after acquainting himself with the viewpoints of our country's responsible officials. Fixing a date for the resumption of the Geneva talks heads Mr Eliasson's agenda. According to the previous agreement, the envisaged date for the resumption of the peace talks should have been about a month ago. However, no date was fixed due to Iraq's efforts to render the talks fruitless.

At the fringe of the Paris chemical weapons conference 2 weeks ago, Dr Velayati met the UN secretary general and informed him of the Islamic Republic of Iran's concern over the discontinuation of the peace talks. At this meeting, our country's foreign minister pointed out to Perez de Cuellar that greater seriousness should be demonstrated in implementing UN Security Council Resolution 598 and in this connection the secretary general can, by exploiting his legal powers and duties, take some effective practical steps. Our country's foreign minister also said that as a first step there should be a guarantee that the coming talks will be useful. On this basis, while the main objective of Mr Eliasson's visit to Iran and Iraq is to set a date for the next round of Geneva talks, it must be guaranteed that the talks will be useful.

Since the Iraqi regime is the only factor responsible for the lack of progress in the talks and in implementing Security Council Resolution 598, the second leg of Mr Eliasson's journey is more sensitive. The outcome of his talks with authorities of the Iraqi regime will show whether the next round of peace talks can break the present deadlock or not. It would not be far fetched to think that the Iraqi regime, by sticking to its illogical stances and obstructionism, will once again dash any hope of the future talks being useful. This doubles the

heavy and sensitive burden of responsibility on the shoulder of the secretary general, as the party tasked by the Security Council to implement the resolution.

At any rate, it is up to the secretary general to choose ways of preventing the Iraqi regime from rejecting the steps he has announced for implementing the resolution. Mr Perez de Cuellar should also strive to put a stop to Iraq's irrelevant discussions and to its preconditions, which are even outside the framework of the resolution. Resolution 598 is very clear and so is the need for its implementation; and once accepted it must be implemented. Resolution 598, therefore, is not a treaty which might require the agreement of the Iraqi side with its articles. It is an essential condition.

In order to effect implementation of Article I, the Iraqi regime must withdraw its forces to the internationally recognized borders, so that the way is paved for implementation of the other articles of the resolution, including the full exchange of POW's. But in practice, the Iraqi regime has demonstrated that it is not in favor of implementing the resolution, as it is merely trying to waste time under cover of some propagandist-political tricks, in order to make Resolution 598 invalid. The method proposed by this regime for the exchange of POW's proves our point.

It will be difficult to stop the Iraqi regime from pursuing such tactics and measures, as observing the principle of taking practical measures against the violating side, can be very positive. If such a desire exists, the Iraqi regime should in the first instance be made to understand the issue. In that case the Iraqi regime will, without doubt, reconsider its behavior and a fundamental change will appear to break the existing stalemate in the peace talks, the consequences of which will include big steps toward the establishment of true peace and stability in the region.

Velayati Holds Talks With Pakistan's Shahi
LD1901235989 Tehran IRNA in English 0937 GMT
19 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 19, IRNA—Former Pakistani Foreign Minister Agha Shahi discussed regional and international issues especially the Afghan problem and the Islamic country's future, in a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Wednesday. The two sides also discussed expansion of Tehran-Islamabad relations and strengthening of ties among Islamic countries. Agha Shahi attended a two-day seminar on Afghanistan which ended Monday.

In another meeting Wednesday, Velayati and Mawlawi Moazen, a leader of the Afghan mujahidin based in Pakistan reviewed current developments in Afghanistan and the role of the mujahidin in the country's future. Praising Iran's holding of the Afghan seminar, Moazen expressed hope that such initiatives would continue in future to better recognise Afghan problems and help the country during its reconstruction phase.

Mujahidin Brief Velayati on Enemy 'Propaganda'
*LD2001000989 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT
19 Jan 89*

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 19, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati received two Afghan mujahidin leaders in separate meetings today. Mawlawi Nasrullah Mansur of the Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami-e (Islamic Revolutionary Movement) and Qazi Muhammad Amin of the Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahidin thanked the Islamic Republic for its support of the jihad in Afghanistan. They also briefed Velayati on the enemy's desperate propaganda campaign to divert public attention from the mujahidin's success.

Velayati said "the events in Afghanistan are a good lesson for world Muslims and indicate the fact that victory lies only in resistance and unity."

Bush To Inherit Reagan's 'Warmongering' Policies
*LD2001131589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 20 Jan 89*

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan will soon transfer power to George Bush, the new President. During his 8-year term he implemented a warmongering foreign policy. Our London correspondent reports:

Ronald Reagan will deliver Washington's White House to George Bush—the 41st U.S. President—within the next few hours. Reagan leaves the White House with many journalistic circles believing—despite the Republicans' emphasis on his successes during the last 8 years—that Reagan's promises made at the beginning of his presidency have not borne any fruit. Although U.S. sources consider Reagan's presidency successful in foreign policy and in some areas of domestic policy, a more careful analysis of Reagan's performance does not paint such a beautiful picture. By increasingly resorting to violence and militarism during Reagan's presidency, the violent and militarist image of the United States has been rejuvenated.

The U.S. military attack on Grenada and the toppling of its government was not the climax to such violence. U.S. attacks on Libya, its generous help to Nicaragua's counterrevolutionaries, and the increasing U.S. military presence in the Mediterranean region and in the Persian Gulf can be seen as a continuation of the same policy. The U.S. Navy even downed an Iranian airliner carrying 290 passengers. Doubtlessly, the ghosts of those 290 people and of the other victims of U.S. militarist policy will stain Reagan's record. White House analysts consider Reagan's policies to be the most successful implemented by any U.S. President within recent decades. Most certainly these successes—if they really are considered successes—owe much to the greater use of such violent and bloodshedding methods.

In relation to domestic issues, the Reagan era witnessed an ever-increasing budget deficit and other economic problems. The terrible U.S. budget deficit is the result of massive investments in military industries and of stationing U.S. forces in greater numbers throughout the world, including Europe. Forty million children, who have been termed as Reagan's hungry people, are seen as one of the consequences of the budget deficit in the United States.

Although Reagan is considered to be one of the most popular presidents, this popularity is to be found only among those who vote in the presidential elections. However, to the great masses with no faith in presidential elections—because of the numerous White House scandals during Reagan's term, from the Irangate affair to other scandals which forced many of Reagan's advisers to resign—he cannot be forgiven.

George Bush enters the White House with this heritage, after carrying the title of Reagan's deputy for the last 8 years. No doubt he will not make any sharp deviations from U.S. policies of the past 8 years. Yet, changes and developments which have appeared in socio-psychological equations of the world—especially in the Third World—will certainly force the White House into making some changes.

Larijani Receives Austrian Ambassador, Message
*LD2401133389 Tehran IRNA in English 1309 GMT
24 Jan 89*

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA—Austrian Ambassador Herbert Traxi in his meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister for Europe and America Mohammad Javad Larijani today discussed regional issues and Tehran-Vienna ties. In the meeting, Traxi submitted Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock's message for his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati. The two sides also discussed the forthcoming visit of President 'Ali Khamene'i to Austria.

Montazeri Urges Free Political Expression
*LD2001191889 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT
20 Jan 89*

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 20, IRNA—Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri called on his representatives at the universities to create an atmosphere for the free expression of views by all political trends and not to back any particular political trend. He said if students adhered to views that contradicted existing policies or prevailing thinking they should engage in polite debate to try to attract them and convince them that they were wrong. "If we see that they have become indifferent or lost faith in us and what we have to say then we have to find the reasons before anything else," he said in a statement to his representatives.

The statement published in the daily KEYHAN Thursday came as the High Council of Cultural Revolution is to decide on the framework of activity of the representatives.

"Use of force and violence would never bring faith into the hearts of individuals especially the professors and students," he stressed. Iran's future leader said his representatives at the universities "other than preventing anti-Islamic deeds and inviting others to the truth should not prevent free individual thinking, expression and action especially in political and social affairs."

He also reminded the Islamic student associations that they should not see themselves as the "guardians of all students" even though the ideals of the association members was divine. "The spirit prevailing over the universities, representative offices, the Islamic associations and the university jihads should be of Islamic brotherhood and optimism and they should refrain from political and group inclinations."

He added: "Stiff laws by themselves without the spirit of cooperation, brotherhood and human dignity could never achieve anything and the state of tension, conflict and sensitivity would intensify."

Mohtashemi, Montazeri Discuss Forming Parties
LD2401110989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Interior Minister Mohtashemi conferred with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri yesterday afternoon. In the meeting Mr Mohtashemi presented the grand ayatollah with a report on activities carried out in connection with implementing the laws on forming political parties and Islamic councils.

During the meeting, the deputy leader pointed to the necessity of paying attention to laws passed by the Majlis and to provisions for their implementation. He said, with the implementation of laws on political parties and Islamic councils, the people feel that they are becoming more involved in the decision-making process. They consider themselves participants in affairs pertaining to the revolution and to the management of the country, as they used to be. Therefore, taking action in connection with the implementation of these two laws is in the interest of the system and the country. No complacency should be displayed in implementing them.

Montazeri Receives Basij Forces Chief
LD2201182889 Tehran IRNA in English 1819 GMT
22 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 22, IRNA—Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri received the commander of the Basij volunteer forces Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Rahmani in Qom Saturday. Rahmani presented the ayatollah a report on the activities of the organization and received guidances on a number of issues.

Defense Ministry's Mahallati on New 'Projects'
LD2301203089 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT
23 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 23, IRNA—Four new production phases at aviation industry and six projects for manufacturing explosives will become operational during the ten-day-dawn, marking the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution's victory in Iran (February 1-11). Hojjat ol-Eslam Qods Mahallati, head of the Defence Ministry's Politico-Ideological Department at the Defence Ministry said today that Iran is displaying some of its armaments including different types of guns, missiles, munitions and electronic devices at the international arms and safety gear exhibitions in Gabon and Lebanon.

On other programmes of the Ministry during the 10-day-dawn, he said industries damaged during the Iraqi imposed war will be put into operation during the 10th anniversary celebrations. A permanent defence exhibit has been set up in Tehran to acquaint people on the latest progress in armaments, Hoj. Mahallati said. The Ministry will also hold sports tournaments, Koran recitation competitions, and will commemorate army martyrs during the dawn celebrations, he added.

Anti-Drug Campaign, Activities Detailed
LD2201181389 Tehran IRNA in English 1759 GMT
22 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 22, IRNA—Famous drug abuse hang-outs in the capital have become almost completely clear of addicts and pushers as a stringent new anti-narcotics law was enforced from Saturday. The anti-narcotics campaign center at the Prime Ministry has been flooded with phone calls from relatives and friends of smugglers or addicts providing information on their hideouts that led to numerous arrests.

The law calls for severe punishment of anyone directly or indirectly involved in the production, distribution, hiding and use of narcotics. A large number of addicts Sunday went to various police and committee stations asking for help to give up their dependence on drugs which have not only become scarce but many times as expensive.

IRNA reporters who visited the Jamshid District, municipal park and the Gomrok areas of southern Tehran where drug users and traffickers once freely roamed learned that the price of heroin had jumped six times and opium four times. Few wondering [as received] addicts were taken away by the guardsmen of the Islamic revolution's committee.

Cafe owners who used to tolerate addicts in their shops are now turning them away fearing punishment under the new law which also considers it a crime to accept addicts at such places. "Technically speaking drug

addicts are not considered sick... nevertheless government will, as much as it can, help them to kick their habit," an official at the campaign center said.

"We thank all those who passed information on the activities of drug traffickers and their hideouts," he added. People can dial 128 on their telephone to link up to a central switchboard set up to gather the incoming pieces of information.

Meanwhile IRNA's provincial correspondents reported the seizure on Sunday of 150 kgs of opium and heroin in Zahedan, 65 kgs of opium in Semnan, 2 kgs of heroin in Garmsar, 30 kgs opium in Birjand as well as large amounts in a number of other cities. The discoveries led to a large number of arrests. In a tragic incident Sunday three addicts in Babol, Mazandaran Province, committed suicide by injecting drugs into their veins and then touching a live electricity cable.

Basij Forces 'Ready'

*LD2201172389 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT
22 Jan 89*

[Text] Qom, Jan. 22, IRNA—Over 500,000 Basij forces stationed in 24,000 resistance bases throughout the country are ready for an active role in the campaign against narcotics and drug traffickers, following the new law which went into effect Saturday. In a talk with IRNA, Basij head Hojjat ol-islam Mohammad 'Ali Rahmani noted that volunteer forces have a successful record against drug smugglers in various provinces especially Sistan va Baluchestan, Kerman and Khorasan. "Basij forces are at present cooperating with concerned organizations in the said provinces," He added.

The new anti-drugs law calls for death sentence for anyone caught with a minimum of 30 grams of heroin or 5 kgs of opium as well as smugglers who open fire on security forces. On formation of the 20-million army as ordered by Imam Khomeyni, Hoj. Rahmani said resistance bases in the country will soon undergo qualitative changes. Turning to the Basij forces' appearance for university entrance examination said 52,000 scientific pamphlets have been prepared for the applicants. [sentence as received]

Violators To Be Shot

*LD2301203389 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT
23 Jan 89*

[Text] Zahedan, Baluchestan va Sistan Prov., Jan. 23, IRNA—Several routes and remote valleys frequented by drug traffickers around the country have been taken over by the Islamic Revolutionary Committeemen (IRC). Mahmud Mirlohi, the IRC deputy commander for intelligence and operations said today. IRC personnel have stormed several hide-outs in this southeastern province over the past three days, capturing a number of armed traffickers.

Since a new anti-drug law took effect on January 21, citizens have been asked to keep clear of border areas between demarcation posts number 1 to 46 along Zahedan-Zabol road by 5 kms, "and orders are to shoot any violators on sight," he said. Mirlohi, describing the new anti-drug law as a "fundamental plan", warned traffickers "from now on they must expect tough measures from IRC personnel." IRC personnel will search all vehicles moving from eastern provinces to other parts of the country, the IRC deputy commander concluded.

Drug Traffickers Killed; Goods Confiscated

*LD2201151789 Tehran IRNA in English 1505 GMT
22 Jan 89*

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 22, IRNA—Six drug traffickers were killed and several arrested after an armed clash with security forces south of Kerman on the first day of the implementation of a tough anti-narcotics law Saturday. The clash which lasted several hours took place when the guardsmen of the Zolfiqar battalion of the Islamic Revolution's Committees closed the road on a major drugs caravan from Sistan va Baluchestan Province 1,100 kms south of Tehran in the Jupar region near Kerman.

The ETTELA'AT and KEYHAN dailies reported Sunday that 127 kgs of opium in 19 sacks was seized from the group led by a certain Habib Narooie. ETTELA'AT said the operation was carried out following a week of arrests, questioning and careful planning in Tehran and Kerman.

Meanwhile in Zahedan, provincial capital of Sistan va Baluchestan bordering Pakistan where much of the narcotics enters the country the committee guardsmen discovered 98 kgs of opium and 48 kgs of heroin in the Nosratabad area of the city. The discovery coincided with the arrest of 100 addicts in the streets and alleys of Zahedan of whom 50 were handed over to the special addiction centers run by the environmental protection organization. A stiff new law went into effect Saturday calling for death sentences for anyone caught with a minimum of 30 grams of heroin or 5 kgs of opium as well as smugglers who open fire on security forces. Last Monday 56 drug traffickers were executed in Tehran and 16 other cities.

In Tehran committee guards obtained a search warrant to enter the hotel rooms of six workers from East Azarbayjan Province. One kg of opium was discovered in the rooms and later another 10 kgs in the false bottom of their cars in the hotel parking lot. Dr Hoseyn Fakr the general director of the Narcotics Control Section of the Environmental Protection Organization called on doctors and drugstores to refrain from providing special pills which would prolong addiction. "Addicts should first make a decision of giving up their addiction and gradually reduce their dependence. This could take a maximum of two weeks," he said. Dr Fakr said those who experienced severe withdrawal symptoms should seek help from doctors or psychologists.

Mobarakeh Drug Rings 'Smashed'

LD2201150289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0730 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] The anti-narcotics section of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps smashed two large narcotics distribution rings in the town of Mobarakeh. According to a Central News Unit report, 150 sticks of pure opium, 1 kilo of opium resin, a quantity of heroin, burnt opium, and alcoholic drinks, as well as some equipment for using narcotics were discovered and seized from these two rings. Twenty-eight persons were arrested in this connection.

Heroin, Opium Seized

LD2301094289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0730 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Through the efforts of the Islamic Revolution Guards of Hamadan and Garmsar, over 3 kilograms of heroin were discovered in the possession of several smugglers. In addition, five more members of a narcotics procurement and distribution gang were arrested. According to the Central News Unit, officials of branch no 10 of the central anti-narcotics headquarters of Kerman's Islamic Revolution Committee conducted a series of operations, breaking-up a narcotics procurement and distribution gang in Kerman. In the course of the operations, 90 kilograms of opium and 3 firearms were discovered in the possession of 5 professional smugglers. The arrested people were handed over to judicial authorities.

Drugs Seized in Khorasan

LD2401094189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0730 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Guards from the committee of the Hormozgan Province arrested two smugglers in Bandar-e 'Abbas and seized 257g of heroin from them. According to a report from the Central News Unit, the guards also arrested 57 other smugglers and seized 43g of heroin, 817g of opium extract, opium and hashish, one rifle, 420 cartridges and some alcoholic drinks. The arrested individuals were handed over to the judicial authorities for trial.

Thanks to efforts by the Islamic revolution committee of Khorasan Province, 45kg of opium, 6kg of heroin, 7 vehicles, 2 G-3 submachine guns, 2 Kalashnikov rifles, 1 Colt sidearm, 1 hand grenade, 367 cartridges, and 23,790,000 rials in cash were seized from 3 merchants of death who were active in a large international gang. The smugglers were handed over to justice. On the other hand, the selfless guards of (Tenekabon's) Islamic revolution committee seized 2 kg of opium from seven drug traffickers.

10 Arrested; Drugs Seized

LD2501093989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0730 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] In the wake of implementing the plan to fight against narcotics smugglers and peddlers, the guards of the Islamic Revolution committees of Birjand, Karaj, and Esfahan provinces arrested 10 merchants of death during the past few days and seized 43 kg of opium, over 3kg of heroin, and approximately 7kg of hashish.

Pakistan

Baluchistan Ends Fight To Dissolve Assembly

BK2401140389 Hong Kong AFP in English 1314 GMT
24 Jan 89

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 24 (AFP)—The provincial government of Baluchistan has ended its legal battle to dissolve the assembly in the southern province in a case that sent tremors through the nascent government of Premier Benazir Bhutto.

Radio Pakistan reported Tuesday that the provincial government had withdrawn its application seeking permission to appeal Monday's ruling by the Baluchistan High Court declaring the dissolution of the provincial assembly illegal.

That ruling automatically reinstated the assembly dissolved December 15 by Baluchistan Governor Muhammed Musa on the advice of Chief Minister Zafarullah Jamali, a supporter of Ms Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

The chief minister had defended the dissolution of the assembly just 26 days after it was elected on November 19 by claiming it was evenly divided and no group was in a position to form a stable government in Baluchistan.

The surprise move sparked opposition criticism of the new government of Ms Bhutto, who while tacitly approving the dissolution of the assembly has said that she had nothing to do with the Baluchistan governor's action.

The opposition charged the move was designed to preempt a no-confidence motion against Mr. Jamali and called an indefinite boycott of the National Assembly.

The Federal Government said Monday that it would not appeal the ruling and Radio Pakistan said Tuesday that the Baluchistan government would follow suit.

It said Baluchistan's Advocate General Yaqub Yusufzai had withdrawn his application seeking high court permission to challenge Monday's order in the Supreme Court.

Analysts said the country's judiciary had come to the rescue of Ms Bhutto by reinstating the Baluchistan Assembly while at the same time establishing the importance of the courts in safeguarding the Constitution.

A full bench of the Baluchistan High Court ruled in the provincial capital Quetta on Monday that the dissolution of the Baluchistan Assembly by the governor was "unconstitutional and without lawful authority."

The verdict came two days after Ms Bhutto visited Quetta and amid speculation that the court would order fresh polls.

The PPP had been hoping to muster enough support to avoid having a hostile opposition government in the sensitive and least developed province where Ms Bhutto's father, the late Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, is remembered for carrying out a similar action in 1974.

But an independent Lahore daily, THE NATION, noted the High Court decision not to call fresh polls had "saved the PPP from a certain rout in the province which has few good memories of the party's previous tenure in office."

The main opposition group in Baluchistan, the pro-Moscow Baluchistan National Alliance (BNA) of Nawab Akbar Bugti, has called for an immediate assembly session to elect a new chief minister.

Informed sources said the speaker had summoned the assembly to meet in Quetta on February 5.

The opposition campaign against the dissolution of the Baluchistan Assembly was spearheaded by the PPP's main national rival, the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) led by Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Mr. Sharif lauded the Baluchistan High Court ruling saying "the concept of check and balance is better than centralisation of power."

The court decision proved the supremacy of law and the Constitution and would strengthen the democratic process in Pakistan, the IJI leader said.

Bhutto on Punjab, Baluchistan, Other Issues
BK2401160189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 24 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has said there is no tension between the federal government and the Punjab government and the governments at both levels have been established in accordance with the Constitution. Talking to newsmen at Karachi airport today, the prime minister said that some elements are trying to create tension between the federal government and Punjab but that such attempts will not succeed if constitutional provisions are followed.

Ms Benazir Bhutto said it is not new in a federal system to have a government run by a party at the federal level and by another at the provincial level. The governments at both levels should function according to the Constitution and whichever government adheres to the Constitution will be respected.

Referring to the Baluchistan High Court's ruling on restoring the Baluchistan Assembly, the prime minister said she emphasized in Parliament that there were two ways to deal with this matter. One was to move the courts and the second was to ascertain the people's opinion—both of these methods were political and peaceful. Ms Benazir Bhutto said her government has categorically stated after the High Court ruling that they were not going to appeal to the Supreme Court. This testifies to the fact that the federal government was not a party to the dissolution of the Baluchistan Assembly.

Talking informally to newsmen in Karachi this afternoon, the prime minister said Pakistan is considering reentering the Commonwealth. Ms Benazir Bhutto said that Pakistan had withdrawn from the Commonwealth in 1971 to protest the recognition of Bangladesh by some Commonwealth members. However, Pakistan, at a later stage, recognized Bangladesh along with other Islamic countries. Therefore, there is no reason to adhere to the earlier policy. Ms Benazir Bhutto said that Pakistan's reentry into the Commonwealth will be beneficial for Pakistanis working abroad. However, any concrete decision will be taken after making a detailed study of the proposal.

In reply to a question on the restoration of the 1973 Constitution in its original form, the prime minister said that when we talk of restoration, we mean the Constitution which was ignored after the imposition of martial law in July 1977.

On the need to hold talks with different political parties on various issues of national importance, Ms Benazir Bhutto said she has appointed Malik Mohammad Qasim as the federal government's adviser on political affairs, who will conduct such consultations on her behalf.

Spokesman Denies Violation of Geneva Accord
BK2501112889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has denied allegations that Pakistan is violating the Geneva accord. He said in Islamabad today that it was on record that allegations from the other side have not been proved to the UN observers team on Afghanistan and Pakistan. The spokesman said there had been no request from Kabul to Pakistan to provide food. However, the Afghan alliance has announced that they would be sending food supplies inside Afghanistan and probably to Jalalabad to save the people from starvation.

3 Killed, 20 Injured in Sind Province Riots
*BK2401154789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1534 GMT
24 Jan 89*

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, Jan 24 (AFP)—Three people, including a five-year-old boy, were killed and 20 injured as clashes erupted in Sukkur town between local Sindhis and Urdu-speaking Muhajirs, hospital sources said.

The violence spread in the town, some 400 kilometres (250 miles) north of here, following a clash between Muhajir students who wanted to hold a rally in a college and two student groups of Sindhi origin, they said.

The two sides used firearms, knives and batons in the streets and burnt several shops and vehicles, eyewitnesses said.

The police fired in the air and used tear-gas to disperse the rioters and the para-military rangers were called in, local authorities said, adding that gatherings of more than four people had been banned.

This was the first violence in southern Sind Province since the installation of the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in December.

Some 300 people were killed last September and October in Hyderabad and Karachi in clashes between the local Sindhis and Muhajirs, who migrated from India after independence from Britain in 1947.

Talks Under Way To Acquire French Power Plant
*BK2401150989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1442 GMT
24 Jan 89*

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 24 (AFP)—Negotiations were continuing between Pakistan and France for the purchase of a French nuclear power plant to offset the country's energy shortage, a Foreign Office spokesman here said Tuesday.

Reiterating Pakistan's resolve to acquire nuclear energy for peaceful purpose, he said the plant required from abroad will be subject to international safeguards. But there has been no agreement with France so far, he said.

Pakistan floated international tenders in 1982 for the purchase of a cluster of light-water 900-megawatt capacity nuclear power plants to be installed at Chashma in the Punjab, alongside a nuclear reprocessing plant France had agreed to supply in 1976.

The latter deal was unilaterally scrapped by France under U.S. pressure, though Pakistan continues to urge France to honour the commitment.

Pakistan has received no bids for its Chashma complex, though reports here said France had expressed an interest in settling the ongoing dispute.

Pakistan went to the International Chamber of Commerce and Industry to force France to honour the deal. Its claim worth millions of dollars in compensation was upheld but Paris reportedly desired an out of court settlement.

Observers here expected an agreement might be possible before President Francois Mitterand's expected visit to Pakistan in September this year.

Asked whether the proposed nuclear power plant was linked to the settlement of the claim over the reprocessing plant the spokesman said that "at a certain stage a package may be possible."

France is already assisting Pakistan in enhancing its energy generating capacity through conventional means. It has provided turbines for a thermal power plant at Kot Addu in southern Punjab, which is to be formally opened by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Wednesday.

Pakistan is also cooperating with China in the nuclear field, and the spokesman stressed this agreement is for "peaceful exploitation of nuclear energy."

Pakistan has denied that it has or is trying to achieve nuclear military capacity.

Bhutto Sends Greetings to U.S. President Bush
*BK2101042089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 21 Jan 89*

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has congratulated George Bush on his assuming office as the new President of United States. In a message to the new President and his wife, she conveyed her good wishes for them and expressed the belief that the relations between Pakistan and the United States will grow stronger.

Reportage on Visit by Iran's 'Ali Shamkhani

Meets With President

*BK2201002289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 21 Jan 89*

[Text] The president has proposed that Pakistan and Iran should work closely to establish an infrastructure which could facilitate greater and closer cooperation on a wider basis in the years ahead. He was talking to the Iranian minister of Revolutionary Guards Corps, Mr 'Ali Shamkhani, who called on him in Islamabad today. Referring to the peace negotiations between Iran and Iraq, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan pointed out that Pakistan had followed these negotiations with great interest and prayed for their success.

The Iranian minister hoped his visit would open a new window on Iran-Pakistan relations. He conveyed to the president greetings and good wishes from the Iranian president, Mr 'Ali Khamene'i.

More on Talks With President

LD2201061189 Tehran IRNA in English 0555 GMT
22 Jan 89

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 22, IRNA—Iran's minister of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), 'Ali Shamkhani currently here on a visit met and talked with Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan here Saturday afternoon.

Shamkhani who arrived here Friday night at the head of a military-parliamentary delegation, briefed the Pakistani president on Iraqi obstruction of peace talks aimed at ending the Iraq-Iran war.

Shamkhani said propaganda and military moves of Baghdad regime indicated that it was not interested in peace.

He further told the Pakistani president that international circles must criticize Iraq for having disrupted peace talks and building up its arsenal.

On Afghanistan issue the IRGC ministers said that it was the responsibility of Iran, Pakistan and other Islamic countries to assist their Afghan brothers in reaching their goals and work to consolidate unity among the ranks of the Afghan mujahidin.

President Ishaq Khan said that the trip of the delegation to Islamabad after the end of the Iraq-Iran war, marked beginning of a new era of cooperation between the two countries.

He said that his country closely follows developments in Iran and the peace talks and expressed the hope that peace will prevail. He added that his country will assist Iran in this respect.

The Pakistani president also said that the two countries enjoyed common stance towards the Afghanistan issue. He also asked Shamkhani to convey his warm greetings to President 'Ali Khamene'i of Iran.

Shamkhani also met with several other Pakistani officials on Saturday and discussed issues of mutual interest.

Talks With Bhutto

BK2201034889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] The Iranian Armed Forces delegation led by Iranian Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Minister 'Ali Shamkhani called on Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto in Rawalpindi yesterday and exchanged views with her on matters of mutual interest. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and Iqbal Akhund, the prime minister's adviser on foreign affairs and national security, were among others present during the meeting.

Earlier, the delegation members exchanged views with the minister of state for defense, Colonel, Retired, Ghulam Sarwar Cheema. They also met with Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Chairman Admiral Iftikhar Ahmad Sirohey and Naval Chief Vice Admiral Yasturul Haq Malik, and held talks with them on matters of professional interest.

More on Talks With Bhutto

LD2201134489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 22 Jan 89

[Text] Mr Shamkhani, the IRGC minister of the Islamic revolution, is heading a delegation to Pakistan. He met and conferred with Ms Bhutto, that country's prime minister, 21 January. According to a Central News Unit report from Islamabad, Pakistan's foreign minister and a number of government officials were also present at the meeting. Mr Shamkhani, having expressed our prime minister's regard, said: The aim of dividing Pakistan [as heard] was to establish an Islamic country, and the aim of the Islamic revolution, is to establish the rule of Islam in Iran.

Mr Shamkhani referred to the cooperation between Iran and Pakistan and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready, under the new conditions and following its acceptance of the Security Council Resolution 598, to cooperate in all fields with the fraternal country of Pakistan. He added: Iran's acceptance of the resolution has disarmed the regime of Iraq of its peacekeeping claim, proving to the world that Iraq's claim is nothing but subterfuge. We are witnesses today of how that regime, despite months of cease-fire and the presence of UN peacekeeping forces, has violated the cease-fire hundreds of times and is mounting its arsenal with the aid of the superpowers.

In respect to the Afghan issue, Mr Shamkhani said: With regard to the sensitive situation prevailing in that country, it is important for Iran and Pakistan to strive harder to help create unity among the people of Afghanistan and establish an Islamic government in that country.

Ms Bhutto, Pakistani prime minister, remarked on the cultural, historical, and religious cooperation between the two countries, and the necessity of expanding such relations. She said: The Islamic countries should strive toward achieving the best possible educational and economical position to preserve their national interests. She added: In our view, the fortification of Iran is the same as fortifying Pakistan and vice versa and we are capable of close cooperation in all fields.

On the issue of Afghanistan, she said: Hitherto, Iran and Pakistan have been striving hard toward improving the situation for the Afghan people and resolving their problems and we should continue these efforts.

In conclusion, the Pakistani prime minister wished good health and long life for the imam of the ummah and sent her regards to the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Cooperation Discussed

BK2201040089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1909 GMT 21 Jan 89

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 21 (AFP)—A high-level Iranian military delegation discussed "professional matters" and economic and technical cooperation with Pakistani officials here Saturday [22 January], official sources said.

The 26-member delegation, led by the minister of the Revolutionary Guard, 'Ali Shamkhani, held a series of meetings with Defence Ministry officials and called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The sources said the Iranian team discussed "issues of common interest and professional matters" with the ministry officials, but did not elaborate.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan assured Iran that Pakistan would supply "every possible assistance in economic and technical fields."

He also proposed that Iran and Pakistan "should jointly work to establish infrastructure which could make greater and meaningful cooperation possible in the years ahead," the sources said.

Press reports here said Iran had formally requested Pakistan's help to reorganize its Armed Forces. Islamabad already offers training facilities to the armed forces of several other Islamic countries.

The Iranian team was also likely to discuss the purchase of small arms and spare parts from Pakistan as both used identical weaponry supplied by the United States, the reports said.

The delegation was to meet Pakistan Army Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg who has emphasised the need for greater "strategic consensus" between Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan after the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

The Iranian officials, on an eight-day trip, was also due to visit Pakistan's ordnance factories at Wah and an aeronautical complex at Kamra, both near Islamabad.

Meets Foreign Minister

LD2301113689 Tehran IRNA in English 1107 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 23, IRNA—The visiting minister of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) 'Ali Shamkhani met with Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan here Sunday and discussed latest developments in Afghanistan.

Shamkhani who arrived here Friday night said that the Afghan people were now approaching victory and added that the present period was of utmost importance for the Afghan Muslim mujahidin.

He stressed that all effort should be made to further consolidate unity among Afghan mujahidin groups.

The Pakistani foreign minister emphasised importance of good neighbourly relations and described future of Tehran-Islamabad ties as promising.

On Afghanistan issue he said that both Iran and Pakistan were sharing the same objective vis-a-vis the Afghanistan issue.

The meeting was also attended by a number of Pakistani Cabinet ministers and officials.

Yaqub Khan on Reported Troop Movement by India
BK2301084189 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 23 Jan 89

[Text] The Senate was assured today that Pakistan was keeping a vigilant eye on developments that affected the security of the country and was taking every step within its means to strengthen national defense. This was stated by the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, while responding to an adjournment motion sought to be moved by Kazi Abdul Latif about reported troop movements by India along Kashmir and Rajasthan borders. He said the government is not aware of any extraordinary troop movements along our borders or of increase in the number of forces deployed there.

The Senate also unanimously passed three official bills. These include a bill to further amend the Delimitation of Constituencies Act 1974, the Civil Servants Act 1973, and Islamabad Real Estate Agents and Motor Vehicles Dealers Regulation of Business 1984. The bills were piloted by the law minister, Syed Ifthikhar Hussain Gilani. There were no amendments to the bills in a spirit of cooperation between the government and opposition.

Yaqub Khan on Desire To Settle Issues With India
BK2501115289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 25 Jan 89

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, told the Senate today that the government wanted to tackle the problems with India through peaceful means and assured that no erosion of sovereignty could be expected in doing so. He was replying to points regarding the foreign policy raised by the members during discussion on political situation. The foreign minister said it was not in Pakistan's security interest to have confrontation with India and the government was therefore trying to solve serious problems and reduce tension with India.

On Kashmir he reiterated that the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, had left no doubt during her recent talks with the Indian prime minister that the issue remains unsettled and outstanding. The Senate has adjourned to meet on the 9th of next month.